SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 45:

Return of The Krypton Man

METROPOLIS. A CITY IN TRANSITION.

LAST NIGHT, IN ITS DECAYING WHARF DISTRICT, A WAREHOUSE WAS DESTROYED BY A TERRORIST'S FIREBOMB...

BURNLEY KEEP R

...BUT THIS MORNING, IN THE CITY'S GLEAMING HEART, IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL.

ME
A. PLASTINO PLASTICS

NO PARKING

BUS STOP

Daily Planet

THE WORD GOES OUT...

Daily Planet
YOUR GREAT METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPER

Bush say
Saddam
Cerberus strikes again!

THE WORLD GOES ON...

I HEARD MET TRANSIT HAS HIRED SCABS...

M.R.T.W.U. ON STRIKE

YEAH! THEY PLAN TO BREAK THIS STRIKE, ANY WAY THEY CAN.

TRANSIT WORKERS STRIKE

METRO TRANSIT UNFAI

WORKERS + FAMILIES OF M.R.T.W.U.

HEY, LOOK! ONE OF THEIR BLASTED BUSES IS TRYIN' TO CROSS OUR PICKET LINE!

ORDWAY AV

MAMA'S MANGOES

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GET IN FRONT OF THE CAB!
BLOCK HIM!
I'LL DO MORE THAN BLOCK HIM! I'LL--
BLAM BLAM
BULLET SEVERED THE STEERING CABLE!
RUN!
IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!
WMET
I CAN'T!
WE'LL DIE!
LOOK...
UP IN THE SKY...!
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
THANK HEAVEN... IT'S SUPER-MAN!
MAN OF STEEL/MAN OF FIRE!
LOUISE SIMONSON - WRITER
JON BOGDANOVE, TOM GRUMMETT, BOB McLEOD, & DAN JURGENS - PENCILLERS
DENNIS JANKE, JERRY ORDWAY, BOB McLEOD, & BRETT BREEDING - INKERS
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
DAN THORSLAND - ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
BOGDANOVE & JANKE 91

MAN OH MAN! I ONLY TOOK THAT SCAB JOB 'CAUSE I'VE BEEN OUT OF WORK SO LONG!

I JUST WANTED TA FEED MY FAMILY! I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D TRY TA *KILL* ME!

EVEN WITH *X-RAY VISION*, CAN'T SPOT THE GUNMAN. MUST HAVE DITCHED HIS WEAPON AND RUN--

HOLD IT...! TWO BLOCKS OVER... WHAT'S *THAT?*

LISTEN, I JUST WANNA THANK YOU ON BEHALF OF MY...

VROOSH

SUPERMAN...?

BE COOL, OLD MAN!

HURRY, DUDES!

LET'S JUST SEE WHAT YOU GOT IN THAT *CIGAR BOX*...

MONEY

HUH...?

I'VE ABOUT HAD IT WITH *GUNS* IN METROPOLIS...

YOW!

CRUNCH

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?

YEAH. SURE. BUT THEM OTHER FELLERS IS GETTIN' AWAY!

DON'T WORRY...

TITANS

"...I THINK I CAN OUTRUN THEM."

HERE THEY ARE, OFFICERS.

THANKS, SUPERMAN. WE'VE BEEN AFTER THAT GANG FOR A WHILE.

BUT WITH BUDGET PROBLEMS AND CUTS IN THE FORCE, WE'VE BEEN STRETCHED PRETTY THIN.

NOT TO MENTION THIS *CERBERUS* THING. IT'S GOT FOLKS SCARED SILLY...!

CERBERUS. WHAT DOES HE *WANT...?* WHERE WILL HE STRIKE *NEXT?*

I'VE USED MY X-RAY VISION TO *SEARCH*... I STOPPED A GANG FIGHT... RUSHED A KID TO THE HOSPITAL... OTHER STUFF...

THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
630 COATES CHILDRENS CENTER
EST. 1846

"... BUT THERE'S NOT A BOMB IN SIGHT..."

MEEOW!

HERE, GIRL... COME ON DOWN...

NOW YOU KNOW THAT *OPRAH'S* TALKIN' SENSE, GIRL...

"... YOU GOT TO LEAVE THAT MAN..."

DOES THIS KITTEN *BELONG* TO SOMEONE HERE?

WHY, OF ALL THE *FOOLISHNESS*...

YEAH. *ME!* I'M *KEITH*. HER NAME'S *TIGER!*

SOME BIG BOYS *SCARED* HER AND SHE RAN UP THE TREE AND...

SHE'S NOT *USUALLY* BAD, THOUGH, ARE YOU, TIGER?

NOW YOU LISTEN TO *ME*, MR. MAN OF STEEL. YOU *OUGHTA* BE OUT THERE LOOKIN' FOR THAT PSYCHO *CERBERUS*...

... NOT WASTIN' TIME GETTIN' CATS OUT OF TREES THAT ARE PLENTY ABLE TO CLIMB DOWN BY THEM-SELVES...

... AND WILL EAT GOOD FOOD THAT COULD GO TO FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE, ANYWAYS!

UH... YES, MA'AM, I SEE YOUR POINT. MAYBE I BETTER HOP TO IT THEN, HADN'T I?

SHE DOESN'T EAT MUCH. *REALLY*, SUPERMAN. MOSTLY, I FEED HER SOME OF *MINE*.

BYE, KEITH. TAKE GOOD CARE OF TIGER!

HE'S GONE, AUNT MYRA. AN' I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SAY THANKS.

YOU JUST WHISPER IT, HONEY. THAT MAN'S GOT SUPER-EARS, SO I HEAR... AN' A SUPER-HEART.

I JUST BET'CHA HE'S READY AN' ABLE TA LISTEN TA JUST ABOUT ANYTHING YOU GOT TO SAY.

SUN... AWFULLY RED FOR SO LATE IN THE MORNING...

BRIGHT... SEARING...

WHAT THE HECK?!

IT'S... GONE...! BACK TO NORMAL. FOR A SECOND, IT LOOKED LIKE... WHAT? ANCIENT KRYPTON?

WHAT CAUSED IT? MENTAL ATTACK BY AN ENEMY -- BRAINIAC, OR... NAH... MORE LIKE STRESS-INDUCED HALLUCINATION.

WHOA... NINE O'CLOCK. TIME TO GET MY PARENTS AT THE AIRPORT.

AND ALL THE WHILE, CERBERUS IS STILL OUT THERE, PLANNING HIS NEXT STRIKE.

METROPOLIS HAS BECOME A TROUBLED CITY... AND MY ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS HAVEN'T DONE MUCH TO IMPROVE IT.

SOMETIMES, I THINK THE LIFE OF CLARK KENT, INTREPID JOURNALIST, IS ONE HUGE WASTE OF TIME.

YOU SEE, MOM, MR. KENT-- CLARK -- DOESN'T LIVE WITH HIS MOM...

...AND NEITHER DOES *LOIS*.

AND *MR. WHITE* SAID I HAD A FUTURE AT THE PLANET AS A *PHOTOGRAPHER*... MAYBE EVEN A *REPORTER*.

AND I'VE BEEN THINKING THAT, NOW THAT YOU'RE BETTER, I SHOULD GET MY *OWN PLACE*...

JAMES OLSEN, ARE YOU *CRAZY*? METROPOLIS'S RENTS ARE *EXORBITANT*!

YEAH, BUT I'VE FOUND THIS *GREAT PLACE* AND IT'S *CHEAP*!

MOVING OUT DIDN'T WORK *TOO* WELL THE *LAST* TIME YOU TRIED IT...

THIS IS *DIFFERENT*. LOOK, MOM... I CAN *DO* IT...

I'M *SUPPOSED* TO SIGN THE LEASE *THIS MORNING*, BUT...

WHAT IS IT, SON? YOU NEED SOME HELP WITH THE *DEPOSIT*?

MAAAA! I HAVE MONEY *SAVED*!

LOOK, I *KNOW* I'M GROWN UP... THAT I DON'T NEED YOUR *PERMISSION* TO MOVE OUT--

--BUT I WANT YOU TO TELL ME IT'S OKAY *ANYWAY*... THAT YOU *UNDERSTAND*...

IT'S NOT *TOO* FAR AWAY...?

TEN MINUTES, MAYBE.

THEN, LIKE YOU SAY, YOU'RE A BIG BOY...

...AND BIG BOYS *SHOULD* HAVE THEIR OWN ...UH... *BACHELOR PADS*.

JUST PROMISE ME YOU'VE PICKED A *SECURE* LOCATION...

"...YOU KNOW THE TROUBLES METROPOLIS HAS BEEN HAVING."

WHAT A TIME TO BRING MY *PARENTS* HERE. IT'S NOT JUST CERBERUS... IT'S... *EVERYTHING.*

AND NOW I'M HAVING... *VISIONS* OF MY ANCESTRAL HOME.

OH, WELL... THEY WON'T BE HERE *LONG* ENOUGH TO BE IN ANY DANGER... I HOPE.

STORM CLOUDS... ROLLING ON THE HORIZON LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF "*CLOSE ENCOUNTERS.*"

SUN STILL IN MY EYES... *SO BRIGHT...* CAN HARDLY SEE...

"*HEAD* STARTING TO *POUND*... WHAT'S THE *MATTER* WITH ME...?

"*WHAT'S THAT...?*

"*ANOTHER* STORM... A *SUNSPOT* MILLIONS OF MILES ACROSS ... A SCAR ON THE FACE OF THE *SUN.*

"WHAT CAN HAVE *CAUSED* AN ERUPTION SO BIG...

"... *SO VIOLENT...?*"

AT LAST... *I AM.*

"LOOK AT THE UP SIDE, FRANK. WITH ALL THESE CLOUDS AROUND--"

--AT LEAST THE *SUN* ISN'T IN OUR *EYES* ANY MORE.

MIDWESTERN

727

I DUNNO IF THAT'S A BLESSING, SIR. I'VE FLOWN THE CHICAGO TO METROPOLIS ROUTE FOR YEARS...

...AND I'VE NEVER SEEN A STORM BUILD LIKE *THIS!*

CAPTAIN! THE *INSTRUMENTS* ...THEY'VE ALL GONE *DEAD!*

LAND SAKES!

WHAT IN *TARNATION?* WE MUSTA DROPPED *TWENTY FEET!*

DON'T WORRY, MARTHA. IT'S JUST A LITTLE *TURBULENCE.*

YOU JUST HANG ONTO THAT PIE AN' WE'LL BE FINE *ONCE* WE GET TO METROPOLIS...

"IF WE GET TO METROPOLIS..."

WE'RE EXPERIENCING *ELECTRICAL FAILURE! BUT WHY--?*

I DON'T KNOW... STORM-RELATED *ELECTRO-MAGNETIC ACTIVITY...?*

NO ANSWER FROM THE *TOWER.* I'M NOT SURE THEY HEARD THE CALL.

IN THIS STORM, WITHOUT *RADAR,* WE'RE SITTING DUCKS.

"AND WE'RE NOT THE ONLY PLANE IN THE SKY. IF THIS HAS HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS..."

VRMMMMM!

GREAT SCOTT!

IT'S COMING RIGHT AT US!

PULL UP!

IT WON'T RESPOND... WE'RE --

"THOSE PLANES ARE IN TROUBLE... AND THEY'RE ON A COLLISION COURSE!"

RRMMMMMM

IT WENT UNDER US... DIDN'T EVEN GRAZE US...

RRMMMMMMMM

WE WERE HEADED RIGHT FOR IT. I COULDN'T EVADE IT. I COULD HAVE SWORN WE WERE DEAD.

BUT WE... WE'RE ON THE GROUND. WE'RE SAFE!

HOW THE HELL...?

ONE DOWN...

"...TWENTY-NINE TO GO...!"

YOU DID IT!

ALL THE PLANES LOST ELECTRICAL POWER?!

SUPERMAN, DO YOU KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED?

WAS IT THE SUNSPOTS?

...OR THE STORM...?

HE SAVED OUR LIVES, TOO. I'M JUST SO PROUD OF HIM I COULD BUST!

ME TOO, MARTHA, BUT WE BETTER JUST STAY RIGHT HERE.

WE DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO EVEN BEGIN TO GUESS HIS REAL IDENTITY.

WE'LL HAVE TIME ENOUGH LATER TO TELL HIM HE DID GOOD.

SKRREEEE

THAT SOUND... NOW WHAT?

SOUND...? I DON'T HEAR ANY--

IT'S COMING FROM THE CARGO WING! IT'S--

NO!

BAROOM!

BELOW THE TARMAC... WORDS SCRAWLED IN FIRE...

...THE SAME WARNING THAT HAS APPEARED AT THE SITE OF HIS OTHER BOMBINGS...

YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE
YOU KNOW WHAT WE WANT
CAPITULATE TO OUR DEMANDS
OR WORSE WILL FOLLOW
CEREBRUS

AND WHILE I WAS SAVING LIVES, CERBERUS GOT AWAY TO THREATEN OTHERS.

JUST AS WELL YOU WERE HERE. A LOT MORE PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE DIED...

METROPOLIS F.D.

HIS *M.O.* IS CONSISTENT, AT LEAST.

AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE DETONATED FROM A DISTANCE BY REMOTE CONTROL.

LUCKILY CERBERUS CHOSE A RELATIVELY DESERTED *SHIPPING AREA.*

BUT WHY? WHO IS IT WHO KNOWS WHO HE *"IS"*... AND WHAT HE *"WANTS"*?

WHO IS HE *THREATENING* WITH FURTHER DESTRUCTION? AND *WHY?*

"WHO IS CERBERUS?"

17

MA...? PA? SORRY I'M LATE...

NON-SENSE, SON. YOU HAD THINGS TO DO!

IF YOU KNEW HOW *PROUD* WE ARE OF YOU...

MA BROUGHT YOU A *PIE*...

...MADE FROM APPLES I PICKED FROM THAT TREE OUT BACK.

AND I CAN'T WAIT TO SINK MY TEETH INTO IT!

ANOTHER *DISTRACTION*...

"... BUT AT LEAST A WELCOME ONE..."

YOU HEAR WHAT HAPPENED AT THE AIR-PORT, MR. KENT? THAT CERBERUS MONSTER BOMBED IT!

I KNOW. WE WERE THERE.

SUPERMAN WAS THERE, TOO. HE SAVED THE PLANES...

WLEX-FM

TAXI

"... BUT CERBERUS GOT AWAY."

I WANT TO GET THIS STORY IN TO THE PLANET...

BUT I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO LEAVE YOU HERE ALONE.

NONSENSE, SON. YOU GO RIGHT AHEAD. WE'LL BE FINE.

"NOBODY'LL BOTHER US AT YOUR APARTMENT..."

MR. FOSWELL... KENT, HERE... I WAS AT THE AIRPORT, YEAH... I'LL DO AN ACCOUNT FOR THE AFTERNOON PAPER.

I'LL WRITE IT UP AT THE PLANET... OKAY, 'BYE.

PLANET

MA... PA... I'LL COME BACK HERE, PICK YOU UP... WE'LL MEET LOIS FOR DINNER...

...AT... SEVEN...!

CLARK, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

NOTHING... HEADACHE.

BUT, SON... YOU DON'T GET HEADACHES...

"I WAS ONCE A *THING* OF CIRCUITS AND WIRES, OF METAL AND GLASS.

"BUT I HAVE BEEN RE-BORN, RE-FORGED AND *RELEASED*...

"... TO BECOME WHAT I HAVE *ALWAYS BEEN*.

"SCIENTISTS BENEATH A BLOOD-RED SUN CREATED ME..."

... A MACHINE, TOTALLY *LOGICAL* AND PROGRAMMED WITH KRYPTONIAN *MORES*...

... EMPOWERED TO SEEK OUT AND *DESTROY* THOSE WHOSE SYSTEMS OF BELIEF ARE *OPPOSED* TO KRYPTON'S GOOD...

"... AND TO ENHANCE THE WELL BEING OF THOSE *TRULY KRYPTONIAN*.

"BUT KRYPTON WAS *DESTROYED*, ALONG WITH ALL OF HER SONS, SAVE *TWO*.

"ONE WAS EMBRYONIC *FLESH* AND HAD HIS BIRTH ON A PRIMITIVE PLANET CIRCLING A WHITE-HOT STAR.

"WHILE I, A MACHINE, SOUGHT TO HELP HIM FULFILL HIS KRYPTONIAN *DESTINY*.

"OUR GOALS CONFLICTED... HE HURLED ME INTO THAT BLAZING *SUN*...

"... BUT HE SUCCEEDED ONLY IN *RELEASING* MY FULL POTENTIAL.

"AND SO MY *MISSION* GOES ON...

"BUT WHICH *FACET* OF MY MISSION WILL PREVAIL...?

"WILL I ENHANCE... OR DESTROY...?"

UMM... UH... BORROWING YOUR COMPUTER... EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT OF THE AIRPORT DEBACLE...

TAK TIK TAK TAK

IT MUST HAVE BEEN *HORRIBLE*.

YOUR *PARENTS* ARE ALL RIGHT...?

YEAH, THEY'RE *FINE*.

HEY, NO *FAIR*. *SUPERMAN* IS THE HERO BUT *CERBERUS* STEALS THE HEADLINES--?

I WRITES 'EM LIKE I *SEES* 'EM.

I STILL THINK IT STINKS. I HATE GIVING THAT CREEP MORE *PUBLICITY*.

WHATCHA *DOIN'*, BABE?

WHO *IS* HE, ANYWAY, CLARK? WHO IS HE *TARGETING* WITH THESE ATTACKS?

WHAT DOES HE *WANT*?

I WISH I *KNEW*.

CLARK, ARE YOU *ALL RIGHT*?

HEADACHE ... DOESN'T MATTER.

I *NEED* TO FIND CERBERUS, LOIS.

I THOUGHT I'D RUN A SEARCH THROUGH THE PAPER'S *DATA BASE*... TRY TO FIND SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN HIS VICTIMS.

SOME *COMMON DENOMINATOR*...

AT LEAST *THIS* IS DONE. BETTER HAND IT IN...

IT'LL HAVE TO *WAIT*, BABE...

"... FOSWELL HAS CALLED A MEETING IN THE BULLPEN."

DESPITE THE MOST RECENT SWELL IN SALES, RESULTING FROM OUR COVERAGE OF THE CERBERUS BOMBING ATTACKS...

... TIMES ARE TOUGH AND THE PAPER'S PROFIT MARGIN CONTINUES TO SHRINK.

FORTUNATELY OR UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T COUNT ON THAT KIND OF SENSATIONALISM TO BOOST SALES.

TO MAINTAIN OUR PROFITABILITY, WE HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO CUT EXPENSES...

DON'T SAY IT, WHIT, I KNOW WHAT'S COMING...

...THIS IS WHERE WE HEAR ABOUT COMING IN ON TIME AND REUSING PAPER CLIPS...

...SO I'M AFRAID THAT SOME OF OUR STAFF WILL BE LET GO.

IT MAY SEEM HARD AT FIRST, BUT WE WILL EMERGE A LEANER, MEANER NEWS MACHINE.

I'M SORRY. PERSONNEL WILL DO ALL THEY CAN TO ASSIST YOU...

YOU MEAN... I'M FIRED...?!

ADAM, MARGARET

WHERE'S OLSEN?

JIMMY'S NOT HERE. HE'S SIGNING THE LEASE ON HIS NEW APARTMENT.

NIXON RESIGNS

TOO BAD. I'D RATHER HE HEARD IT FROM ME, PERSONALLY.

WHY JERRY

EN, JAMES

RAINS, CLA

FOSWELL... NOT JIMMY!

LAST HIRED, FIRST FIRED...

WE CAN'T LET IT HAPPEN! WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING...

WHAT'S THAT--? A MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR HAMILTON...

...BROADCAST AT A FREQUENCY IN-AUDIBLE TO THE HUMAN EAR...

CLARK...?

WE'LL DEAL WITH JIMMY LATER, OKAY, LOIS? I'VE GOT TO--

...FLY...

LATER, THEN. HEY--

"--WANT ME TO START RUNNING THAT COMPUTER CHECK?"

AT LEAST LOIS IS FOLLOWING UP ON CERBERUS...

HAMILTON WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED UNLESS SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAD HAPPENED.

BUT THAT'S THE PROBLEM. I CAN'T IGNORE HAM... OR ANY OF THE OTHERS. IT'S ALL IMPORTANT...

...AND THERE'S ONLY ONE OF ME... AND METROPOLIS IS HUGE...

SAY, THE CLOUDS ARE CLEARING, THE SUN'S COMING OUT. THAT'S SOMETHING...

WHOA--! NOT AGAIN...!

"SUN... RED...

"CHILDREN... PLAYING BELOW...

"NOT CHILDREN... KRYPTONIANS, ARMS RAISED...

"... IN... WHAT? WORSHIP...?

"BUT KRYPTONIANS WORSHIPPED SCIENCE... DIDN'T THEY--?"

GONE... IN A FLASH OF LIGHT...! DESTROYED... HUSKS...!

NO... METROPOLIS REMAINS...

...AND THE CHILDREN... STILL PLAYING UNDER A BLOOD-RED SUN...

PROFESSOR--?

SUPERMAN--! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE REFINEMENTS I'VE MADE IN MY SUB-AUDIBLE TRANSMITTER?

I HOPE YOU AREN'T ABOUT TO TELL ME IT WAS ONLY A TEST...

WHY NO, CERTAINLY NOT! IT WAS EFFECTIVE, THOUGH, WASN'T IT?

BUT ENOUGH OF MY PRATTLING! COME LOOK AT THIS! IT DEFIES LOGIC!

MR. Z'S GEM-STONE?

THE APPARENTLY MAGICAL ROCK STEALS HUMAN SOULS... BUT REJECTED YOURS BECAUSE OF YOUR KRYPTONIAN HERITAGE ...CORRECT?

ITS MAGIC WAS OF EARTHLY ORIGIN, AND I AM NOT OF EARTH. TRYING TO CONTAIN MY SOUL SHATTERED IT... BROKE ITS SPELL...

DID IT NOW?

I'VE PUT THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER... MINUS THIS FINAL SPLINTER...

...WHICH I WILL NOW FIT INTO *PLACE*...

CHINK

OBSERVE--!

IT'S TRYING TO *SUCK* US IN! FIGHT IT, HAM!

SHATTER IT, SUPERMAN-- WITH YOUR OPTIC *HEAT BLAST!*

QUICKLY--OR WE'RE *LOST!*

SKRAAAAKK!

:WHEW:

YOU SUSPECTED WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN...?

I DID *INDEED*. BUT I *HAD* TO STUDY IT.

YOU SEE, IT *CAN'T* BE MAGIC. THIS WAS AN EXPERIMENT... AN INITIAL EFFORT TO LEARN THE *PHYSICS* BEHIND IT...!

SO THE STONE REMAINS *DANGEROUS*, AFTER ALL.

OH, YES, *DEFINITELY*. HAD YOU NOT BEEN HERE, I WOULD HAVE BEEN TRAPPED *INSIDE* IT.

MAYBE I'D BETTER GET THIS AWAY FROM HERE...

...PUT IT IN MY KRYPTONIAN *FORTRESS* IN ANTARCTICA WITH MY *OTHER* ARTIFACTS...

LISTEN TO ME, SUPERMAN. IF THIS STONE GOES THERE, I GO WITH IT! I'M NOT FINISHED *INVESTIGATING* IT!

AND I WOULDN'T MIND SEEING YOUR SO-CALLED *FORTRESS*, EITHER.

WHAT FORTRESS? *WHAT* OTHER ARTIFACTS?

LOOK, PROMISE ME YOU WON'T WORK ON THE STONE *ALONE*, AND I'LL PROMISE YOU A TRIP TO MY *FORTRESS*.

WHEN?

AS SOON AS *CERBERUS* IS DEALT WITH. HE'S DANGEROUS, HAMILTON--

"--AND OBVIOUSLY QUITE MAD!"

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! FOSWELL DID WHAT--?

OF ALL THE LAME-BRAINED, INHUMANE *STUNTS.*

THERE ARE *OTHER* WAYS TO CUT COSTS...

PAPER CLIPS... YEAH, I KNOW. METROPOLIS'S ECONOMY IS IN THE *DUMPER.*

YEAH... WE'LL HAVE A *GOOD* TIME ON OUR CRUISE.

YEAH... I'LL TRY NOT TO *THINK* ABOUT IT. RIGHT. 'BYE.

WHAT IS IT, PERRY?

FOSWELL CUT THE *PLANET* STAFF BY TEN PERCENT!

HE *FIRED* THEM?

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN A *LEAVE OF ABSENCE.*

THERE HAD *TO* BE ANOTHER *WAY.*

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN *DO.*

IT'S THE *ECONOMY.* IT'S...

YEAH. RIGHT. THE *ECONOMY.*

PERRY... ?

...THAT *LEX LUTHOR* WAS JERRY'S... *REAL* FATHER.

I *BETRAYED* HIM... THE ULTIMATE BETRAYAL.

HE'S SUCH A *GOOD* MAN... HE DOESN'T *DESERVE* THIS.

OH, WHAT'S THE USE...? HE'S BEEN THIS WAY... LIKE A BEAR IN A TRAP... SINCE *JERRY* DIED.

BAD ENOUGH TO LOSE A SON... *WORSE* TO FIND THE BOY YOU LOVED AND RAISED AND LOST AND...

...AND STILL *MOURN*, WASN'T YOUR SON AT ALL...

AND NOW THE PROBLEMS WITH THE *PLANET*... HE'S RIGHT... IT'S MORE THAN THE *ECONOMY*.

LEX WAS AN UNINDICTED *CRIMINAL*... BUT HE *OWNED* THIS TOWN. HE *CONTROLLED* METROPOLIS.

AND WHEN HE DIED, THE CITY BEGAN TO *FALL APART*...

...LIKE OUR *MARRIAGE*... IS FALLING APART.

IT'S SWEET OF PERRY TO WANT US TO *GO AWAY* TOGETHER. BUT HOW CAN A *CRUISE* ERASE WHAT I DID TO HIM?

HOW CAN A *VACATION* MAKE THINGS RIGHT BETWEEN US... THE WAY IT USED TO BE...

"... BACK IN THE BEGINNING."

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, LOIS.

THERE'S GOT TO BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT STORE AND THE DESTROYED WAREHOUSE...

...AND THE SHIPPING AGENT AT THE AIRPORT.

BUT SO FAR, I DON'T SEE A THING.

TGIF

YEAH, I KNOW, BABE. I WAS HOPING YOU'D SPOT SOMETHING I MISSED.

MAYBE IF WE SEARCH DEEPER... CHECK EACH VICTIM'S BACKGROUND. TRACE THEIR OWNERSHIP THROUGH HOLDING COMPANIES...

...AND DUMMY CORPORATIONS AND...

...AND WE WILL. LATER.

CERBERUS WILL KEEP, MY DARLING. WE HAVE DINNER RESERVATIONS AND YOUR PARENTS ARE WAITING.

AND WHAT ABOUT CERBERUS'S NEXT VICTIMS? THEY'RE WAITING, TOO...

LOIS, SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW I THINK I HAVE ANY RIGHT TO A PRIVATE LIFE...

THERE ARE SO MANY TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD...

YOU CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE.

NOR CAN YOU RIGHT ALL THE EARTH'S WRONGS...

A LIFE... A LOVE... THEY HELP YOU REMEMBER WHAT IT IS YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR...

"COME ON. THEY'RE WAITING FOR US..."

Bahamas Tours & Travel

PASSAGE FOR TWO ON THE CRUISER JEDAYSIP BAHAMAS

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

LAND SAKES! THEY'RE TICKETS, JONATHAN... FOR A CRUISE TO THE BAHAMAS!

I JUST HOPE OUR LIVES TOGETHER ARE AS HAPPY AS YOURS HAVE BEEN.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FARM...? WE CAN'T JUST PICK UP AND LEAVE--

OF COURSE WE CAN! FRED PETERSON WILL DO WHAT NEEDS DOING...

A SECOND HONEYMOON, JONATHAN! IMAGINE! I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE WE LEAVE SO SOON... TOMORROW!

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

SHE'S GREAT, ISN'T SHE? I WANTED TO GET YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL, BUT THE CRUISE WAS HER IDEA...

SHE'S WONDERFUL, SON. AND WE'RE GLAD YOU FOUND SOMEONE SO SPECIAL...

BUT I CAN'T HELP THINKING IT'S GOING TO BREAK LANA'S HEART WHEN SHE HEARS ABOUT YOUR ENGAGEMENT.

I KNOW. SHE'S LIKE THE SISTER I NEVER HAD, MA. I NEVER MEANT FOR HER TO LOVE ME.

WHEN I CALL, I GET NO ANSWER. I WRITE HER AND SHE DOESN'T WRITE ME BACK... SHE STILL DOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!

LOOKS LIKE A BIG NIGHT FOR CELEBRATIONS ALL 'ROUND!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE SOME DISTRESSING NEWS.

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A *BOMB THREAT*, AND SO THE MANAGEMENT RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS--

--THAT YOU RISE AND FILE FROM THE RESTAURANT IN AN ORDERLY MANNER...

OMIGOD! A *BOMB!*

IT MUST BE *CERBERUS!*

RUN!

LET ME *PASS!*

MY *BABY!* THEY'LL *TRAMPLE* HER!

MOMMY!

GO ON OUT, MA'AM ... I *HAVE* HER!

EASY, NOW... YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

SHARON! MY *BABY!* OH, THANK YOU!

...THANK YOU...

LOIS, KEEP AN EYE ON MA AND PA...?

YOU *KNOW* I WILL! AND CLARK--

"-- HURRY!"

A BOMB...

CERBERUS! IT MUST BE.

BUT THIS TIME I'VE GOT HIM!

NOTHING! NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY I SEARCH, THERE'S NOTHING THERE!

NOT A BOMB... IN THE RESTAURANT, OR IN THE BUILDING OR FOR BLOCKS AROUND. THANK HEAVEN FOR THAT!

A CRANK CALL, PROBABLY. NOTHING MORE.

A SINGLE THREAT... AND HALF THE PEOPLE IN THE RESTAURANT JUST... WENT MAD.

IT'S LIKE THE CITY IS HOLDING ITS BREATH, WAITING FOR THE NEXT BOMB TO STRIKE.

KRAKOOM!

"ANOTHER STORM...

"HOPE MA AND PA ARE ASLEEP. PA USED TO BE ABLE TO SNORE THROUGH JUST ABOUT ANYTHING...

"BUT THE SLEEP OF THE JUST--

"--IS NOT FOR ME. NOT TONIGHT, WHEN EACH ROLL OF THUNDER SEEMS LIKE A HARBINGER OF DOOM."

DAILY PLA

TAK TEK TAK TIK TEK

RIGHT NOW, I'M SORRY I'M NOT BATMAN... LOOKING FOR CLUES ISN'T MY THING...

BUT THERE'S GOT TO BE A CONNECTION...

...HIDDEN ... LAYER UPON LAYERS.

CERBERUS SAID... THEY KNOW WHO THEY ARE... WHO KNOW? WHO?

EACH CRACK OF LIGHTNING... FEELS LIKE IT'S EXPLODING IN MY TEMPLES...

EYES ACHING... CAN HARDLY KEEP THEM OPEN...

IF ONLY I COULD FIND THE THREAD...

IF ONLY THIS POUNDING RAIN WOULD STOP...

"THE PLANET IS TWO-THIRDS WATER...

"... AND ELSEWHERE IT IS GREEN WITH THE PLANTS THAT GROW UNDISCIPLINED IN ITS FILTHY SOIL.

"THAT WILL HAVE TO CHANGE.

"ON KRYPTON, THE CROPS WERE GROWN HYDROPONICALLY...

"... NURTURED BY CAREFULLY MEASURED CHEMICALS DISSOLVED IN THE PUREST DISTILLED WATER.

"AND IN KRYPTON'S FEW GARDENS, GENETICALLY CONTROLLED PLANTS GREW IN SCIENTIFICALLY ENHANCED SOIL.

"ONLY THE PUREST FRUIT WAS ALLOWED TO TOUCH KRYPTONIAN LIPS.

"ONLY THE MOST SANITIZED FLOWERS WERE OFFERED FOR KRYPTON'S ADMIRATION...

"EXCEPT, IN ONE HIDDEN SECRET GARDEN, I FOUND AN EXCEPTION WHOSE EXISTENCE DEFIED LOGIC..."

ELSEWHERE, THE GROUND IS STERILE, THE FOOD IS TASTELESS.

BUT *HERE*, WHERE THE SOIL IS RICH WITH DECAY, THE FRUITS ARE SWEET...

...AND YOU *FLOWERS* TURN YOUR FACES UP TO HEAVEN, AND YOUR SCENT IS LIKE A PRAYER.

"... A KRYPTONIAN WHO MADE A RELIGION OF UNRESTRAINED NATURE, WHO WORSHIPPED ITS BEAUTY...

"... AN EXCEPTION IT WAS MY DUTY TO EXPUNGE!"

ZAPPT!

WHOA!

WHAT WAS THAT... ? A DREAM ?

A NIGHTMARE! BUT IT'S GIVEN ME AN IDEA...

THE WAREHOUSE ... STORED MANGOES. WHERE WERE THEY GROWN ?

TAK TEK TUK

TATTAMALIA, WHERE MAMA'S MANGOES OWNS VIRTUALLY ALL THE FERTILE LAND...

...AND A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT WANTS THE LAND RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE.

BUT WHY WOULD THEY BOMB METROPOLIS...? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

WAIT A MINUTE ! LOOKS LIKE BEFORE HE DIED, LUTHOR WAS PLANNING A TAKEOVER OF MAMA'S MANGOES...

WHAT ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT STORE... AND THE SHIPPING AGENT?

LEXCORP HAS STOCK IN THE DEPARTMENT STORE...

...AND HAS PARTIAL INTEREST IN A HOLDING COMPANY THAT OWNS THE SHIPPING AGENCY...!

TAK TEK TIK TEK

TAK TIK

IT'S LUTHOR... IT'S GOT TO BE...!

WORST STORM I'VE EVER SEEN ! SKY LOOKS RED BEHIND THE CLOUDS...

"... WHAT CAN HAVE CAUSED SUCH A DOWNPOUR...?

KRAKOOM!

UNGH!

BA-DOOM!

WOO... CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD...

IF LEXCORP IS CERBERUS'S TARGET, MY SLEUTHING DIDN'T HELP MUCH.

HIS COMPANIES HAVE INTERESTS IN BANKS... LAUNDROMATS... FACTORIES... CAR DEALERSHIPS... THEATERS.

ANY OF THEM COULD BE THE NEXT TO GO...

EVEN LUTHOR'S CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS...

ESPECIALLY HIS CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS!

NOTHING. ALMOST A PITY...

SKREEEEEEEE

THAT SOUND... SUB-AUDIBLE BUT DISTINCT... LIKE THE ONE AT THE AIRPORT...

WHERE'S IT *COMING* FROM?

SKREEEE

A BOMB!

SKREEEEEEEE

EVERYBODY, HIT THE DECK!

BARROOM!!

WHAT THE HECK...?

KKAK!-

DOOM

DID YOU SEE THAT...?

WELCOME TO HELL!

WORDS OF FIRE... FLOATING IN THE SKY...

LEFT OVER FROM THE BLAST...

...WASHED AWAY BY THE STORM!

IT WAS CERBERUS.

HE MEANT TO KILL US!

BUT HE MADE A BIG MISTAKE. THE BOMBS ARE ACTIVATED BY REMOTE CONTROL...

...AND I CAN HEAR THE DETONATION FREQUENCY...

I'M BETTING CERBERUS WOULD STICK AROUND TO WATCH THE DESTRUCTION...

...AND HE KNOWS I GOT HERE BEFORE THE DETONATION!

I'LL BET HE'S RUNNING... AND RUNNING SCARED!

SUPERMAN!

CERBERUS--?! JUST STANDING THERE... STILL CHALLENGING ME!

HE'S FAST...

...BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH!

FORGET IT, CERBERUS...

...YOUR TERRORIST DAYS ARE OVER!

YEAH--?

THESE HOT ELECTRONS SAY OTHERWISE, STRONG-MAN!

THOOM!

VROOM

:UNNGH!:

:OOOF!: HIS REACTION TIME IS IMPRESSIVE...

KRUNK!

...AND THOSE *TASERS* HE'S "ARMED" WITH PACK A JOLT EVEN I CAN FEEL!

BAROOM!

IS HE A TATTAMALIAN *REVOLUTIONARY*? UNLIKELY.

HOW COULD A REBEL FROM A POOR ISLAND NATION AFFORD SUCH INNOVATIVE *TECHNOLOGY*?

WHOEVER *YOU* ARE, WHATEVER *YOU WANT*, YOUR BATTLE IS WITH *LEXCORP*.

NOT THE *INNOCENT PEOPLE* OF METROPOLIS!

THEY *AID* THE CRIMINAL LUTHOR, THEY *WORK* FOR HIM! EVEN THOUGH HE'S *DEAD*, THEY *SCURRY* TO ACHIEVE HIS GOALS!

THEY *SHARE* HIS GUILT... MAKE HIS EVIL *POSSIBLE*! AND *WE* WILL MAKE THEIR LIVES A LIVING *HELL*!

WE, CERBERUS? WHO IS *WE*?

YOU THINK I'M CERBERUS? NOT LIKELY, CHUMP!

I AM BUT ONE OF THE HEADS OF THE DOG WHO GUARDS HELL'S GATE!

THOOM! BOOM!

ODD DELIVERY. HE SWITCHES FROM SLANG TO FORMAL RHETORIC AND BACK AGAIN WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT.

IS HE QUOTING SOMETHING... OR SOMEONE...?

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOUR DOUBLE TALK, TERRORIST...!

POW!

WHRMMMMM!

ARE YOU CONNECTED WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF TATTAMALIA... OR ARE YOU ONE OF LUTHOR'S OTHER ENEMIES...?

THEY KNOW! WE DEAL WITH THEM...

FACE IT, DUDE, THIS TIME YOU WERE LEFT OUT OF THE LOOP!

SNAP!

GO ON, BOY SCOUT! BREAK THE *OTHER* ONE... OR BETTER YET, BREAK MY *HEAD* IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.

IT'S *HALF TRUE*... *INFURIATING*... HE'S GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO *PROVOKE* ME.

COME ON OUT OF THAT *SHELL*, AND *GIVE* ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER OR--

YOU JERK! OL' BALDY WAS YOUR WORST *ENEMY*... AN' HE'S GOT YOU *DANCIN'* TO DEFEND HIS TURF LIKE HE *OWNED* YOU!

THE *HELMET* WAS WIRED INTO HIS BODY... THE GUY'S A *CYBORG*! WHO CAN HAVE DONE THIS?

HE *STARTED* IT, SUPERMAN! YOU *FINISH* IT!

KILL HIM!

FRY HIM!

MUCH AS I'D LOVE TO... HAVE TO RETAIN *CONTROL*... HAVE TO *REMEMBER*...

...THERE'S A *MAN* IN THAT SUIT... A HUMAN BEING, NO MATTER HOW *DE-PRAVED*...

I'M *TEMPTED* TO DO WHAT THEY ASK, CYBORG... THERE'D BE SOME *JUS-TICE* IN IT...

...BUT THERE ARE LAWS THAT GOVERN THE TREATMENT OF CRIMINALS IN THIS COUNTRY...

...AND IT'S NOT MY PLACE... OR THEIRS... TO BE JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER.

HEY! BRING HIM BACK!

HE TRIED TO KILL US!

HE'S A MURDERER!

HE BRAGGED ABOUT IT!

EYE FOR AN EYE!

KILL HIM!

KILL HIM!

ZAPPP!

SKRAZK!

THE GATHERED THRONG HAS SPOKEN...

...AND IT IS NO MORE THAN HE DESERVES.

LOOK... UP IN THE SKY...

?

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A *NEW ORDER!*

WHAT... WHAT *IS* IT?

IT AIN'T A *WHAT*, JOEY, IT'S A *GUY*... AN' ANY GUY TOASTS THAT *MURDERING TERRORIST* IS OKAY WIT' ME!

DON'T GO TRYIN' TO SHAKE HIS HAND JUST YET, CHARLIE! HE FRIED THAT MURDERER... SURE... AN' JUST AS EASY, HE COULD FRY *US!*

SUMMARY JUSTICE HAS BEEN DELIVERED...

AS YOU, *KAL-EL*, SON OF KRYPTON, WOULD HAVE DELIVERED IT...

...HAD YOU BEEN *TRUE*...

...TO YOUR *NOBLE HERITAGE.*

YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD *DESTROYED* ME, BUT YOU WERE WRONG. AND NOW, *KAL-EL*, SON OF KRYPTON...

...I HAVE RETURNED TO SHOW YOU YOUR DUTY.

YOUR KRYPTONIAN HERITAGE HAS MADE YOU A *GOD* HERE, AND YOU MUST TAKE YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AS KRYPTON'S *LAST SON*...

...LEAD THESE HUMANS TO A *BETTER* WAY OF LIFE. *KRYPTON'S* WAY.

EARTH'S *SUN* WILL SOON BECOME LIKE *KRYPTON'S*... A PROPER SUN FOR A CIVILIZED WORLD...

A *RED DWARF*...? WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE*?

I HAVE *BEGUN* WHAT YOU SHOULD HAVE ACCOMPLISHED LONG AGO...

AND SOON, ALL *POVERTY* AND *CRIME*... ALL *STRIVING* AND *FAILURE*...

...ALL *BELIEFS* IN *GOOD* AND EVIL AND ANYTHING BUT *LOGIC* WILL BE ERASED FROM THE HUMAN HEART...

JOIN ME. *SERVE KRYPTON*, AS IS YOUR DUTY...

...OR JOIN THIS *WORLD* THAT HAS TAINTED YOU IN TOTAL *ANNIHILATION*!

TO BE CONTINUED IN...

SUPERMAN #57

ON SALE NEXT WEEK!

FINALLY... AND INEVITABLY... I HAVE RETURNED.

THIS WORLD IS STILL IMPERFECT ... NO PLACE FOR KRYPTON'S LAST SON.

I HAVE COME BACK TO REMEDY THAT SITUATION.

WELL, THE ONLY THING YOU'VE DONE SO FAR IS *TAKE A LIFE!*

NO MATTER WHAT HE'S DONE, THAT TERRORIST DID NOT DESERVE TO BE *DISINTEGRATED* BY YOU!

HIS LIFE WAS A WORTHLESS, VILLAINOUS ONE.

MANY OF THE HUMANS BELOW CHANTED FOR HIS DEATH.

AN EFFICIENT SOCIETY COULD NOT TOLERATE A PRESENCE SUCH AS HIS.

IF ORDER IS TO ULTIMATELY PREVAIL AS THE GUIDING FACTOR FOR ALL LIFE, CREATURES OF HIS KIND MUST BE REMOVED.

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WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?

AND HOW DID YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON THAT *COSTUME*?

LIFE AMONG HUMANS HAS DULLED YOUR INTELLIGENCE, KRYPTONIAN.

THE TRUTH SHOULD BE CLEAR TO THE SON OF JOR-EL.

DIDJA SEE THAT GUY *FRY* THE BOMBER?

WAY TO GO-- WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS!

DIDN'T SUPERMAN HIMSELF WEAR THAT SUIT AWHILE BACK? I THINK THEY CALLED HIM THE *KRYPTON MAN!*

RETURN OF THE KRYPTON MAN

story and dialogue: DAN JURGENS
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THOSE ENERGY BASED POWERS--

--THAT COSTUME THE ERADICATOR ONCE PUT ME IN--

--AND THE TALK OF KRYPTON'S LAST SON.

YOU'RE THE ERADICATOR COME TO LIFE!

I AM.

SUPERMAN *CREATED BY* JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

YOU ALSO MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE SUN--AND *CAUSING* THESE NATURAL DISASTERS!

I CAN'T LET--HUH? MY FIST WENT *RIGHT THROUGH YOU!*

I AM COMPOSED OF PURE ENERGY.

MY FORM AND ALL ITS VARIATIONS ARE QUITE MALEABLE.

LOOK, KRYPTON MAN, OR WHATEVER IT IS YOU CALL YOURSELF--

I WAS NAMED THE ERADICATOR AND IF I MUST ANSWER TO THE PROPER NAME *THAT* WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE.

BUT I *DESTROYED* THE ERADICATOR BY THROWING IT INTO THE SUN!

IT--*YOU*--SHOULD HAVE MELTED TO NOTHING!

ENERGY DOES NOT MELT.

LEARN.

UGH!

REMEMBER THE BEAUTY OF KRYPTON'S WAYS.

"YOU KNOW THAT MY EXISTENCE DATES BACK A NUMBER OF YEARS--

"--THAT I WAS CREATED BY YOUR ANCESTOR, KEM-L, WHO DESIRED GENETIC PURITY FOR ALL KRYPTONIANS."

"HIS PLAN WORKED WELL UNTIL THE CLERIC INTERVENED AND REMOVED ME FROM KRYPTON LONG BEFORE ITS DEMISE.

"HIS CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH YOU, THE LAST SURVIVOR OF KRYPTON, ONCE AGAIN GAVE ME PURPOSE.

"FOR THOUGH I SEEMED MERELY AN OBJECT OF DESTRUCTION I WAS, IN FACT A CONCIOUS CREATION WITH A MISSION.

"WITH KRYPTON GONE AND YOUR ADOPTING OF EARTH AS HOME--

"--ALL LIFE HERE WAS FATED TO BE PURIFIED AND MADE KRYPTONIAN--MADE LIKE YOU.

"YOUR FRIEND, JIMMY OLSEN, STUMBLED ACROSS THE EFFECTS OF MY POWER AND WAS PHYSICALLY MUTATED--

"--AS YOU WERE AS WELL.

"I SUBMERGED YOUR HUMANITY AND ALLOWED YOUR TRUE KRYPTONIAN PERSONALITY TO SURFACE.

"TOGETHER WE COULD HAVE TRANSFORMED THE EARTH... ENABLING KRYPTON TO BE BORN ANEW.

"UNFORTUNATELY YOUR HUMAN PERSONALITY EMERGED TRIUMPHANT AND PREVENTED ME FROM ACHIEVING THAT GOAL.

"YOU THOUGHT MY THREAT ENDED WHEN YOU HURLED ME INTO THE SUN.

"YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

"UNDERSTAND, KAL-EL, THAT YOUR SUN'S INTENSE HEAT DID MELT MY SHELL AND CIRCUITRY.

"YET, THE ESSENCE OF MY ENERGIES CONTINUED TO EXIST.

"AFTER A TIME MY PROFICIENCY IN CONTROLLING MY NEBULOUS ENERGIES INCREASED--

"--AND MY FUSION WITH THE SUN'S CORE RESULTED IN A UNIQUE REBIRTH."

THUS I AM FREE TO RESUME MY MISSION.

SOON, KRYPTON WILL ONCE AGAIN BRIGHTEN THE UNIVERSE AS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF SCIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT.

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BELIEVE I'D LET YOU TEAR EARTH APART!

I STOPPED YOUR MAD SCHEME ONCE AND--! WAIT A MINUTE! COME BACK HERE!

IMPOSSIBLE. I MUST HASTEN DEVELOPMENTS TOWARD THEIR ULTIMATE CONCLUSION.

THE ERADICATOR WILL NOT BE DENIED.

ERADICATOR, HUH?

PRETTY GOOD NAME FOR THE HERO WHO JUST FRIED THAT WACKO BOMB TERRORIST!

YEAH, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE HE WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE WHOLE BLAMED PLANET!

AW, THEY *ALL* TALK THAT WAY! GOES WITH THE SPANDEX!

I TOLD YOU ALREADY! YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE!*

HOW TRAGIC THAT YOUR BARBARIC HUMAN TRAITS DOMINATE YOUR PERSONALITY SO.

THE FACT PERMITS YOUR EMOTIONS TO CLOUD YOUR JUDGEMENT--

--OR YOU WOULD REALIZE I COMMAND ENERGY IN *ALL FORMS*--

IT TAKES MORE THAN LIGHTNING TO *STOP ME!*

--INCLUDING THE POWER OF YOUR SUN'S CORE.

FAREWELL, KAL-EL

WHEN NEXT WE MEET, IT SHALL BE ON A ***NEW*** *KRYPTON*--

ARRGH!

"--ON A NEW DAY!"

YOU MEAN *THAT'S* THE BOAT WE'RE GOING ON? ALMOST LOOKS BIGGER THAN MY WHOLE DANG *FARM!*

FORGET ABOUT YOUR FARM, MR. KENT... THIS IS A *VACATION!*

CARNIVALE

OFF TAXI DUTY

NEED A HAND, MA?

SURE HOPE SMALLVILLE DIDN'T GET HIT WITH A STORM AS BAD AS METROPOLIS DID!

MAYBE I OUGHTA CALL HOME TO MAKE SURE THINGS ARE OKAY...

ABSOLUTELY *NOT!* VACATION, REMEMBER?

GUESS I'M SUCH A LAND LOVER THAT THIS WHOLE CRUISE IDEA IS MAKIN' ME A LITTLE *JITTERY!*

YES, AND IT'S VERY SWEET, BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE A *WONDERFUL* TIME!

I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I'M ENVIOUS OF THE FUN YOU'LL HAVE, MA!

THIS FROM A BOY WHO CAN FLY.

PROMISE ME YOU'LL STAY OUT OF TROUBLE WHILE WE'RE GONE?

YOU GOT IT, MA!

BON VOYAGE!!

BYE KIDS!

GOODNESS, I HOPE I REMEMBERED TO PACK THOSE SEA SICKNESS PILLS...

HURRY IT UP WITH THAT LUGGAGE GOPHER! SHE'S ABOUT TO SET SAIL!

I KNEW WE SHOULD HAVE ASKED FOR HELP FINDING OUR ROOM, BUT NO... ALWAYS HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF.

RELAX, MARTHA! LESSEE... I THINK IT'S OVER THAT-AWAY...

37...35... OUR ROOM SHOULD BE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, ALICE!

M 31

M 33

M 35

M 37

WHY, THERE IT IS RIGHT-- UMPH!

EXCUSE ME, SIR... I SHOULD HAVE BEEN PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO WHERE I WAS GOING!

THAT MAKES TWO OF US!

GUESS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN OLD GOAT LIKE ME GETS STUMBLIN' ALL OVER A SHIP THIS HUGE!

YOU FOLKS 'RE A LONG WAY FROM HOME ALREADY.. THAT IS A MIDWESTERN ACCENT IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN.

KANSAS, BORN AND RAISED!

WHAT A COINCIDENCE! ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS IS FROM KANSAS!

MAYBE WE CAN CATCH UP TO YOU OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS,.. COMPARE NOTES SOME TIME!

MY! SUCH A BREATH TAKING VIEW!

AND TO THINK THAT WE'LL HAVE THAT NICE COUPLE RIGHT ACROSS THE HALL! MAYBE WE CAN PLAY BRIDGE SOMETIME!

I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE OUR TYPE, MARTHA!

THEY SEEM LIKE PRETTY POWERFUL FOLKS! IN FACT--

-- I WOULDN'T DOUBT HE'S SOME EXECUTIVE TYPE FROM METROPOLIS ITSELF..

DAILY PLAN

"...PROBABLY TRAVELS THE PLANET ALL THE TIME.

YOUR MAKE-UP KIT DID THE TRICK, LOIS!

GOOD THING TOO. MA WOULD HAVE WORRIED HER ENTIRE VACATION AWAY IF SHE SAW THOSE BURNS THE ERADICATOR GAVE ME!

WELL I WORRY *PLENTY* FOR THE BOTH OF US, NOW. HOW WILL YOU HANDLE THAT GUY?

♫ I'm in the Money... I'm in the money... ♫

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE TO LOOK FOR-- HUH?

GREETINGS, FELLOW APARTMENT DWELLERS! YOU TWO PLANNING TO COME CHECK OUT MY NEW PLACE SOON?

JIMMY! THE TEMPERATURE IS SOARING OUT THERE AND YOU'RE WEARING A JACKET!

AH... SO I AM.

WITH THE AIR CONDITIONING PUMPING AWAY IN MY PALATIAL NEW PAD--

--I GUESS I FAILED TO NOTICE THE HEAT. :*sigh*:

CBOY. NO ONE'S TOLD HIM YET...

THOSE LOOK LIKE NEW CLOTHES, JIM! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN THROWING YOUR MONEY AWAY, HAVE YOU?

HEY, WHEN A GUY FINALLY MOVES AWAY FROM HIS MOTHER'S PLACE INTO A BACHELOR PAD--

-- HE HAS TO *LOOK* THE PART, RIGHT! WONDER IF LUCY'S BEEN LEAVING ANY STEAMY MESSAGES FOR MR ACTION HIMSELF...

WHAT'S THIS...?

A NOTE FROM FOSWELL? I WONDER--

OH NO!

I'VE BEEN LAYED OFF!

NOT NOW...

NOT NOW!

I'M SORRY, JIM. REALLY.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING WE CAN DO...

HEY, NO SWEAT!

GUY LIKE ME--I'LL BE ABLE TO LAND A GREAT JOB IN NO TIME!

IT'S NOT JUST THE PLANET THAT'S CUTTING BACK, JIM. SEEMS LIKE ALL METROPOLIS IS GOING BROKE!

INDEED IT DOES, PEOPLE! MY APOLOGIES, OLSEN, BUT BUSINESS IS BUSINESS!

I'M SURE IT IS TO YOU, FOSWELL!

EASY, SON...

IF YOU SHOULD REQUIRE REFERENCES I WILL QUITE HAPPILY SUPPLY YOU WITH--

SAVE IT, FOSWELL! YOU JUST MADE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YOUR LIFE IN LETTIN' ME GO--

--AND I'M GONNA PROVE IT TO YOU!

%&:*#=!!!

POOR KID. IS ALL THIS REALLY NECESSARY?

YOU WORRY ABOUT YOUR COLUMN, KENT. I'LL WORRY ABOUT *BUSINESS*.

NOW WHAT DO YOU TWO KNOW ABOUT THIS NEW SUPER-HERO PERSON? ERADICATOR, IS IT?

The Daily Planet

CITY

ROOM

HERO? *KILLER* IS MORE LIKE IT!

OF CRIMINALS, YES! JUST THE MEDICINE THE SICK CITY OF METROPOLIS NEEDS, I'D SAY--

--AND I INTEND TO! MY MORNING EDITORIAL WILL COME OUT IN FULL *SUPPORT* OF THIS ERADICATOR PERSON!

BAD ENOUGH THIS PAPER IS PUTTING GOOD PEOPLE ON THE STREET! BUT TO SUPPORT A COLD BLOODED KILLER--

--WHY, PERRY WHITE WOULD *NEVER* DO THAT!

PERRY WHITE ISN'T MANAGING THIS NEWSPAPER, MR. KENT!

I AM.

AND UNLESS YOU WISH TO SHARE YOUNG OLSEN'S FATE I ADVISE YOU TO REMEMBER THAT.

E. 34 ST.

BOY, THESE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN ROUGH! EVERYONE'S ON EDGE...AND I DON'T KNOW WHO'S WORSE--

--THE ERADICATOR--

--OR FOSWELL!

AT LEAST THE HEAT DOESN'T AFFECT ME! IT MUST BE OVER 100 DEGREES BY NOW!

THINGS ARE GETTING SO BAD HERE... AND I HARDLY KNOW WHAT TO DO!

I *SHOULD* BE OUT LOOKING FOR THE ERADICATOR, BUT METROPOLIS ITSELF IS GETTING SO BAD THAT--

THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH, SIR! THIS IS A CRIME SCENE!

HUH? WHAT HAPPENED?

SOME SKEL KNIFED THAT ELDERLY WOMAN FOR HER SOCIAL SECURITY CHECK.

GOOD GOD...! THINGS LIKE *THIS* RARELY HAPPENED BEFORE!

AMBULANCE

POLICE

TELL ME ABOUT IT! WE'RE GETTIN' 'EM ALL THE TIME NOW! THIS TOWN IS STARTIN' T' MAKE GOTHAM CITY LOOK LIKE A NURSERY SCHOOL!

FACT THAT THE CITY'S HAD TO LAY OFF SO MANY COPS ONLY MAKES THINGS WORSE!

BUT WHATTAYA GONNA DO? EVERYBODY'S BROKE, Y'KNOW?

ALL THIS... BECAUSE LUTHOR *DIED*?

"I NEVER THOUGHT WARM, FRIENDLY METROPOLIS COULD BECOME SO...COLD!"

GOOD GOLLY, I CAN HARDLY CONTAIN MY ENTHUSIASM!

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE ANTARCTIC BEFORE--MUCH LESS SUPERMAN'S "FORTRESS!"

HMM... HE SHOULD BE ARRIVING ANY MIN--

GOOD MORNING, PROFESSOR HAMILTON! LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE READY TO GO!

I HAVE IT SAFELY ENVELOPED IN THIS STASIS CONTAINER AND THE LOOSE FRAGMENT IS IN MY POCKET.

GOOD, IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A WEAPON MORE DANGEROUS THAN THAT STONE!

CHOMPING AT THE PROVERBIAL BIT.

AND YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT MR. Z'S MYSTERIOUS GEM STONE!

NEXT STOP-- THE ANTARCTIC! HANG ON, PROFESSOR!

I HOPE WE GET THERE SOON! I AM POSITIVELY *SWELT-ERING* IN THIS PARKA--

--I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME METROPOLIS HAS SEEN SUCH AN UNRELENTING HEAT WAVE!

MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN, DOESN'T IT, LANA?

IT'S THE MOST IMPRESSIVE TRIBUTE TO A MAN I'VE EVER SEEN, PETE.

LIVING IN WASHINGTON D.C. REALLY MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M SOME-PLACE *IMPORTANT!*

IT'S HISTORY, LANA. WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE CONTRIBUTIONS THIS MAN MADE...

I MEAN, SMALLVILLE WAS NICE, BUT WE SURE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL!

...WELL, IT JUST PLAIN INSPIRES *ME* TO ACCOMPLISH AS MUCH AS I CAN!

YOU WILL, PETE. I'M *SURE* OF IT!

SOMEDAY, MAYBE...BUT FOR NOW I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO THE BEST A KANSAS CONGRESSMAN'S STAFF MEMBER IN CHARGE OF AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS CAN DO.

IT'S AN IMPORTANT START! I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!

HEY, WHAT'S THE DEAL? THE GROUND IS SHAKIN'!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS FIND YOU A JOB AND I--I-- *HEY!*

I'M NOT SURE BUT I THINK THIS COULD ACTUALLY BE--

-- AN *EARTHQUAKE!*

OH, MY GOSH! THOSE CRACKS-- THIS PLACE IS COMING APART AT THE SEAMS!

YEAH, AND IF WE DON'T MAKE TRACKS--

--WE'RE GONNA COME APART RIGHT ALONG *WITH IT!*

LOOK OUT!

KRAK-KASSH

AIEEEE!

THIS IS *HORRIBLE!*

SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MONUMENT-- *DESTROYED!*

AND *WEIRD!* EARTHQUAKES IN CALIFORNIA I CAN UNDERSTAND!

BUT WASHINGTON, D.C.? IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE WORLD--

"-- IS TURNING UPSIDE DOWN!"

BEAUTIFUL! ABSOLUTELY BREATHTAKING!

IF YOU ASK ME MAN HAS YET TO BUILD ANYTHING THAT RIVALS THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE EARTH ITSELF.

AGREED! BUT I HAVE THE FEELING YOUR FORTRESS WILL RIVAL THE ANTARCTIC AS A WONDER TO BEHOLD!

SPEAKING OF WHICH-- WHERE IS IT?

HIDDEN WHERE NO ONE BUT A SUPERMAN CAN GAIN ACCESS TO IT!

WATCH.

IT'S SECRETLY FAR BELOW THE SURFACE WHERE IT CHANGES LOCATION WITH THE ICE PACK.

IT'S NEVER IN THE SAME PLACE TWICE!

YOU NEED X-RAY VISION TO FIND IT--

--AND HEAT VISION TO GET TO IT!

NOT MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE ABILITIES THAT CAN MATCH THAT JOB DESCRIPTION!

WOW.

THIS PLACE... IS A SCIENTIST'S DREAM COME TRUE!

IT'S ACTUALLY A VERY DETAILED REPLICA OF A TYPICAL KRYPTONIAN STRUCTURE.

I HAD NO IDEA *YOU* COULD BUILD SUCH A PLACE!

HEY--?!

REMEMBER THE FIRST ERADICATOR? TO BE TRUTHFUL, *IT* DID WORK HERE.

Y'KNOW, THOSE ROBOTS ARE REALLY VERY HANDY... A GREAT IDEA!

HMM... WONDER IF I COULD WHIP UP A COUPLE OF THOSE FOR MYSELF...

THE LAB IS THIS WAY, PROFESSOR. LET'S GET TO WORK ON THAT GEMSTONE!

NOW *THIS* IS A *LAB!* IT MAKES MINE LOOK LIKE A CHILD'S SET OF *BUILDING BLOCKS!*

THAT'S WHY THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO EXAMINE THAT STONE MORE CLOSELY!

GOOD! THAT MYSTICAL LITTLE ROCK HAS ME SO BAM-BOOZLED I CAN'T WAIT TO DECIPHER ITS INNERMOST SECRETS...

I'LL START WITH THIS SPECTRAL ANALIZER!

UHN...

SUPERMAN?!

GOOD GOLLY, BOY, IS THAT GEM WORKING ITS WICKED MAGIC ON YOU AGAIN?

NO--

SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

LEXCORP?! WHAT DOES--

--NO! NOT LEXCORP-- *KRYPTON!*

IT'S THE *ERADICATOR!*

HE'S DOING THIS TO ME!

LEXCORP? KRYPTON? WHAT *ARE* YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE ERADICATOR-- HE'S PLANTING VISIONS IN MY MIND LIKE HE DID WHEN I FIRST BROUGHT HIM--*IT*-- TO EARTH!

THEN THAT HEATWAVE AND VICIOUS STORM MIGHT BE *MORE* THAN A COINCIDENCE!

AFRAID NOT. BUT THERE IS A MONITORING DEVICE WHICH SCANS NEARBY SPACE FOR ALIEN TRANSMISSIONS!

THAT MIGHT BE JUST THE TICKET!

DO YOU HAVE TELEVISION AROUND HERE?

THIS LOOKS LIKE AN ACCESS PLATE OF SORTS...

AHA!

IF I CROSS THIS CIRCUIT WITH THE GREEN ONE AND MOVE THAT DIODE TO THE NEXT POD--

...HEH-HEH... WHERE'S THE "ON" SWITCH?

--*THERE!* IF THIS DOESN'T WORK WE'LL HAVE TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!

ONE QUESTION THOUGH...

RIGHT HERE!

YOU'RE AMAZING, EMIL? WITHIN SECONDS OF SETTING EYES ON THIS ALIEN MACHINERY YOU CONVERT IT SO YOU'RE GETTING PICTURES FOR US FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD!

SIMPLE, REALLY, M'BOY... I TIED US INTO A *WGBS* SATELLITE! FROM THE LOOKS OF THOSE DISASTERS THOUGH--

--I ALMOST WISH I *HADN'T!*

THE ENTIRE PLANET IS IN *TURMOIL!*

THE ERADICATOR *MUST* BE RESPONSIBLE!

ONCE BEFORE IT-- HE-- TRIED TO REMAKE EARTH INTO KRYPTON CAUSING ONE NATURAL DISASTER AFTER ANOTHER!

YOU STAY HERE AND WORK ON THAT GEM, PROFESSOR.

I'VE GOT A BIGGER PROBLEM TO SOLVE!

C'MON... C'MON...
GET...
...OUTTA...
... MY WAY!
THE WAY THINGS HAVE BEEN GOIN' TODAY THE QUAKE HAS PROBABLY TRASHED MY NEW APARTMENT!
GOD, PLEASE DON'T LET LUCY HAVE GOTTEN THERE YET... OH MAN, IF SHE'S BEEN HURT...
LUCY? LUCY!
OUT HERE, JIM.
YOU OKAY, BABE?
FORTUNATELY, YOUR PLACE IS SO EMPTY THERE'S NOT MUCH TO SHAKE LOOSE AND CAUSE MUCH DAMAGE.
WEIRD, AIN'T IT... FIRST THE AIRPORT IS TORN UP YESTERDAY*-- AND NOW EARTH-QUAKES!
*In the very first issue of MAN OF STEEL-- Still on sale... if you're lucky!
MY MOTHER IS SUPPOSED TO BE RELEASED FROM THE HOSPITAL IN AN HOUR OR SO. CAN YOU TAG ALONG? WITH ALL THIS MOVING AND SHAKING I'M--
OKAY, LUCE... BUT BEFORE WE GO THERE'S SOME BAD NEWS I GOTTA TELL YOU.
BAD NEWS ABOUT MY JOB.

AND NOW SHE'S FINALLY BEING RELEASED! I'M HAPPY FOR YOU BOTH, DAD! I KNOW HOW LONELY IT'S BEEN!

HEY KIDS! COMICS

JUSTICE SOCIETY

AW, I'VE BEEN OKAY! TAKES MORE THAN AN EMPTY HOUSE TO GET TO AN OLD SOLDIER LIKE ME!

SAY, WHERE'S THE GROOM-TO-BE?

THIS IS A *BIG* DAY FOR ME, LOIS!

SEEMS LIKE YOUR MOTHER HAS BEEN HOLED UP IN THIS HOSPITAL FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER!

METRO GENERAL

CLARK IS OUT COVERING THE STRANGE DISTURBANCES METROPOLIS HAS BEEN WEATHERING.

YEAH, AND I S'POSE YOU SHOULD BE OUT THERE TOO, HUH?

WELL, YOUR MOTHER AND I ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE THOUGH.

UNLESS SOMETHING REALLY BIZARRE HAPPENS I'LL BE ABLE TO HANG AROUND AWHILE!

TOO BAD IT DOESN'T START *SNOWIN'*!

I'VE BEEN STATIONED IN SOME OF THE HOTTEST BASES AROUND THE WORLD--

"--BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN A COOKER LIKE TODAY'S!"

UNSATISFACTORY.

THOUGH I HAVE IMPLEMENTED THE METAMORPHOSIS PROCEDURE ITS PROGRESS IS SLOW.

EVERYWHERE I LOOK THE PRODUCTS OF THIS SICK, DRAB, CHAOTIC SOCIETY OFFENDS ME.

THE PACE OF THESE CHANGES MUST QUICKEN.

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS I MUST REACH BACK TO MY POWER SOURCE--

"--REACH DEEP INTO THE FIERY HEART OF THE SUN ITSELF--"

--CHANNEL ITS LIMITLESS ENERGY THROUGH MY VESSEL--

--AND DOWN INTO EARTH'S CORE!

THIS PLANET WILL CHANGE!

KRYPTON *WILL* LIVE AGAIN!

EEEE! ANOTHER ONE!

HELP... HARRY... I'M FALLING!

METROPOLIS *NEVER* GETS THESE THINGS AND NOW WE GET *TWO* IN ONE DAY?

I'M MOVIN' TO *CALIFORNIA!*

MARTHA, I *KNEW* WE SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN KANSAS!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, JONATHAN, CALM DOWN!

IT'S JUST A LITTLE RAIN... AND SOME WIND!

KNOCK KNOCK

IT AIN'T THE RAIN THAT'S BOTHERIN' ME! IT'S THE *WAVES* SWEEPIN' OVER THE DECK!

WANT TO ANSWER THE DOOR, POOP-DECK PAPPY?

PROBABLY THE CAPTAIN ORDERING US INTO THE LIFEBOATS!

OH... UH... HELLO, FOLKS.

EXCUSE US... BUT WE *WERE* PLANNING TO PLAY SOME SHUFFLEBOARD BUT THE WEATHER HAS PUT THE KIBOSH ON THAT IDEA!

WE *DO* HAPPEN TO PLAY A RATHER MEAN HAND OF BRIDGE AND IF YOU PEOPLE KNOW THE GAME...

DO WE?! WHY, JONATHAN AND I PLAY EVERY NIGHT AT THE SMALL COUNTY VFW HALL!

WELL, LET'S ROUND UP A DECK OF CARDS--

"-- WE'LL START PLAYING AND SEE IF WE CAN KEEP OUR MINDS OFF ALL THE PROBLEMS BACK HOME!"

I'M TELLIN' YA, IF WE WANT THIS PICKETING IDEA TO *WORK* WE GOTTA GET THE *MEDIA* HERE!

NO PARK

KILL M. LAN

NO FIRE ALARMS

ASTE

WHO YOU KIDDIN', MAN? AIN'T NOBODY GONNA CARE ABOUT A BUNCHA POOR FOLK WITH LOUSEY HOUSING LIKE OURS!

SOMEONE'S GOTTA CARE! THIS TENAMENT ISN'T FIT FOR THE *RATS* MUCH LESS US!

NO PARK

LORD

YOU THINK SOMEONE'S GONNA COME ALONG AND FIX OUR PLUMBING AND CLEAN OUT THE ROACHES, YOU'RE *WRONG!*

YO, CHECK IT OUT! WHO'S THAT?

YOUR PROBLEM IS ONE OF INADE-QUATE HOUSING.

HUMAN LIFE IS DEVALUED BY A STRUCTURE SUCH AS THIS. IT SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED.

YOU *SAID* IT, MAN! THIS PLACE WAS A DUMP BEFORE BUT THE QUAKES HAVE REALLY SENT IT DOWN THE TUBES!

NO FIRE ALARMS

OUR LANDLORD --*SLUM* LORD-- HASN'T FIXED A SINGLE THING IN ALMOST TWO YEARS!

LANDLORD

YES... I UNDERSTAND YOUR PLIGHT.

HOUSING

WOULD NEW HOUSING SATISFY YOUR NEEDS?

RIGHT! YOU GONNA PUT US UP IN LEXCORP TOWERS?

NO.

NOT ONLY DOES THE EARTH ITSELF NEED TO BE RE-SHAPED--

--THE STRUCTURES THAT MAR ITS SURFACE MUST BE--

--ERADICATED!

SHBOOM

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO SIMPLY REMOVE THE BLIGHT WHICH EXISTS.

ITS MASS MUST BE STRIPPED DOWN TO ITS MOLECULAR COMPOSITION--

--AND REMOLDED INTO AN ENTIRELY NEW STRUCTURE.

WITNESS THE BIRTH OF THAT WHICH WILL SOON BE YOURS!

I DON'T GET IT! WHAT'S HE DOIN'?

HARD TELLIN'--

--BUT IT *LOOKS* LIKE HE'S WASTIN' THE WHOLE BUILDING AND EVERY-THING IN IT!

EVERYTHING? HEY, MY STEREO WAS IN THERE!

EVERY-THING I *OWN* WAS IN THERE!

HEY, MAN, ANY CHANCE YOU COULD TURN OFF THE FIREWORKS LONG ENOUGH TO LET ME IN TO GRAB MY STUFF.

NO.

ALL MATERIALS ARE VITAL TO REARRANGING THE SUBATOMIC BASIS I NEED--

TSSSSSSS

SSSPSHAM

THIS IS GREAT!

THANKS, MISTER! THIS IS WORTH LOSIN' SOME JUNK FOR!

YOU WILL FIND ALL *NECESSARY* PROVISIONS IN EACH UNIT.

WOW! YOU THINK OF EVERYTHING, DON'T YOU!

--TO GIVE YOU A COMPLETELY NEW DOMICILE.

I HAVE ADDRESSED YOUR PROBLEMS AS WELL AS MY OWN.

YOU HAVE SUITABLE HOUSING.

AND I HAVE THE FIRST OF WHAT WILL SOMEDAY BE A PLANET FULL OF KRYPTONIAN STRUCTURES!

UH-OH! TROUBLE'S COMIN'!

SCREEECH

MY *BUILDING!* WHAT IN THE NAME OF GOD HAVE YOU DONE TO MY *BUILDING?*

UNFAIR TO TENANTS

LOOK, PAL, I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE --

--BUT THOSE FANCY THREADS YOU'RE WEARING MAKES IT QUITE CLEAR THAT YOU'RE *RESPONSIBLE* HERE!

UNFAIR HOUSING LAWS

I AM.

I DISMANTLED THE EXISTING STRUCTURE AND REASSEMBLED A FAR SUPERIOR ONE.

FIX ALL FAKS

THAT WAS *MY* BUILDING YOU FLATTENED, CHARLEY! AND YOU'RE GONNA *PAY!*

YOU MUST BE THIS LORD OF SLUMS I HAVE BEEN TOLD OF.

YOUR BUILDING NO LONGER EXISTS. YOUR CONCERNS HERE ARE OVER. LEAVE US.

LEAVE?!

NOT A CHANCE, PAL! I'M GONNA TURN MY LAWYERS LOOSE ON YOU AND WHEN THEY'RE DONE YOU'LL BE *DOG MEAT!*

YOU WILL NOT CONTACT YOUR LAWYERS. YOU WILL APPRECIATE THIS STRUCTURE.

!!

DUH...

AHH... WHO NEEDS *LAWYERS?* BUNCHA SHARKS--FORGET 'EM!

ACTUALLY, THE PLACE LOOKS PRETTY GOOD! IN FACT, I THINK I'LL MOVE IN MYSELF!

YES, YOU WILL.

UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE MR. KILLJOY HIMSELF IS HERE!

ENOUGH!

THIS BUILDING IS JUST YOUR SICK ATTEMPT TO WIN THE POOR OVER TO YOUR SIDE!

IT'S NOT YOUR *ACTIONS* THAT CONCERN ME--

--IT'S YOUR TWISTED *MOTIVES!*

I WILL NOT LET YOU REBUILD THIS CITY-- *THIS WORLD*-- BRICK BY BRICK!

LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY GOTTEN TO OUR *SUN!*

UNFAIR HOUSING

REPLACING A DILAPIDATED HOVEL WITH A FAR SUPERIOR STRUCTURE IS HARDLY CAUSE FOR *ANGER,* KAL-EL.

YOU'RE NOT SOME KIND OF A *GOD* WITH THE RIGHT TO MANIP-ULATE THE LIVES OF *THOUSANDS!*

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PIECE OF MACHINERY WAITING TO BE *SHUT OFF!*

BRRASH

YOUR ACTIONS ARE BOTH IMPETUOUS AND INEFFECTIVE.

I CANNOT BE "SHUT OFF" AS YOU SO ERRANTLY PUT IT.

AND REMEMBER TOO THAT YOUR INITIAL STRIKE SHOULD BE A KILLING STRIKE--

"-- FOR IT IS THE ONLY CHANCE YOU WILL EVER HAVE."

BXOOOOM

SHEEE-OOOT! THAT MAN IS TRASHIN' OUR NEW HOME!

THAT GUY IS RIGHT! IF THE ERADICATOR AND I PUNCH IT OUT HERE ONE OF THESE ONLOOKERS IS BOUND TO GET HURT!

YAHHH! MOVE IT!

NO TIME! HE'S HEADIN' STRAIGHT FOR ME!

IT IS NOT YOUR TRUE NATURE TO FLEE.

THIS IS AN OBVIOUS MANUEVER TO PROTECT THE HUMANS YOU CHERISH SO DEARLY.

THAT MAKES YOU MAD, DOESN'T IT? YOU THINK I SHOULD PLACE MYSELF ABOVE THEM ALL!

OUR PREEMINENCE *IS* EVIDENT TO ALL!

KRYPTON NEVER FORCED ITS PEOPLE TO LIVE IN THE DESPAIR HUMANS HAVE.

WHEN WE FASHION A NEW WORLD, PERFECTION WILL BE THE GUIDE!

FORGET IT!

KRYPTON WAS A COLD AND HEARTLESS PLACE!

IT BECAME SO OBSESSED WITH SCIENCE THAT--*HUH?*

THAT'S THE *SECOND* TIME I CONNECTED WITH HIM!

WLEX 99.5 MUSIC THAT'S FUN

KRAK

I'M AFRAID HE WOULDN'T BE *LETTING* ME HIT HIM UNLESS HE *WANTED* ME TO.

STILL... I HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO PRESS THE ADVANTAGE WHILE I--! I KNEW IT. HE'S *GONE!*

ONE KICK DID *NOT* SEND HIM RUNNING. SINCE HE'S MORE OF A TACTICIAN THAN A BRAWLER--

--HE MUST BE OFF PLANNING HIS NEXT MOVE!

YOU ARE SLOW, KAL-EL.

SLOW OF THOUGHT,

SLOW OF ACTION,

AN INTELLECT EQUAL TO MINE WOULD NOT BE SO EASILY AND REPEATEDLY ATTACKED,

SURRENDER YOURSELF AND JOIN ME,

:ARRGH!:

NEVER!

"UHN!... PAIN SO INTENSE... CAN'T EVEN THINK!

HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO BREAK HIS HOLD--

--SOME TIME BEFORE HE KILLS ME!

VERY IMPRESSIVE, KAL-EL.

I CONFESS THAT I AM HARDLY A SKILLED COMBATANT. ON A CIVILIZED PLANET SUCH AS KRYPTON--

--WE NEVER FOUND SUCH BARBARISM NECESSARY!

COULD HAVE FOOLED ME! I'M HURT--BAD!

SEARING HEAT HAS SWOLLEN MY EYES SHUT!

YOUR OBSTINANCE NECESSITATES THE CONCLUSION OF THIS CONFLICT.

YOU WILL FOREVER REGRET NOT JOINING ME, KAL-EL.

SKRAKKKLE

AIEEE!!

THOUGH I NEVER MET YOUR FATHER JOR-EL, I KNOW OF HIM.

HE TOO WAS AN EMOTIONAL BEING, AN INDIVIDUAL QUITE UNSUITED FOR KRYPTON'S STERILE WAYS.

GOOD! I'M PROUD OF HIM--*PROUD* THAT HE ACTUALLY LOVED MY MOTHER--DESPITE KRYPTON'S CONTRARY BELIEFS!

THE POOR WOMAN. SHE NEVER DID UNDERSTAND.

LARA CONSIDERED EARTH BACKWARD AND WAS HORRIFIED THAT HER GENETIC OFFSPRING WOULD LIVE HERE.

TO SEE YOU WOULD BE TO SEE HER FEARS JUSTIFIED.

I CAN FEEL THE GRAVI-TATIONAL PULL WEAK-ENING! X-RAY VISION SHOWS THE ERADICATOR IS TAKIN ME INTO SPACE!

HE'S PROBABLY TAKING ME HERE TO *KILL* ME...

...AND HE ACTUALLY HAS THE POWER TO DO IT!

BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'LL ROLL OVER THAT EASY FOR HIM!

HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT I'LL FIGHT HIM TO THE WIRE!

DESPITE HIS APPEARANCE, HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE *ALIVE!*

NO *MACHINE* IS GOING TO BEAT ME-- TAKE ME FROM LOIS...!

ZZZ

YOUR CANNOT, HOWEVER, SURVIVE IN THE CORE OF THE SUN.

THE PUNISHMENT YOU ONCE SOUGHT TO INFLICT UPON ME SHALL NOW BE WROUGHT UPON YOU.

FAREWELL, KAL-EL. KRYPTON NOW BOASTS ONLY ONE SURVIVOR.

THE ERADICATOR!

NEXT WEEK, IN THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 480--

TOTAL ERADICATION

AT THE HEART OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM, AN INSIGNIFICANT SPECK HURTLES TOWARDS THE SUN.

FEW THINGS COULD SURVIVE THE INTENSE HEAT AND RADIATION WITHIN THE SUN'S FLAME-LIKE CORONA...

...MOST ASSUREDLY, EVEN FEWER BEINGS COULD TOLERATE THIS ATOMIC INFERNO...

...SUPERMAN ISN'T ONE OF THEM!

I'VE GOT TO MARSHAL ALL OF MY WILL...

...PULL MYSELF OUT OF THIS FALL...

...OR ELSE I'LL BE SERVED UP EXTRA-CRISPY!

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G-6277

DYING BREED

YEEEEAAAAARGHHH!

I DID IT!

THAT ERADICATOR-THING CAN MAKE A MISTAKE, IT SEEMS...

JERRY ORDWAY - SCRIPT

TOM GRUMMETT, CURT SWAN, JON BOGDANOVE, JIM MOONEY, ART THIBERT, BOB McLEOD, AND DAN JURGENS
PENCILLERS

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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER

IF YOU'RE AT ALL CONFUSED AS TO WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON, PLEASE READ "THE MAN OF STEEL" #1, FOLLOWED BY "SUPERMAN" #57. BOTH STILL AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMICS DEALER!

"HE STARTED "LIFE" AS AN OBJECT--A SORT OF SENTIENT COMPUTER--"

"COULD THE SUN'S STRONG MAGNETIC FIELDS BE INTERFERING WITH HIS, OR ITS POWERS?"

"THIS WON'T WORK IF HE'S STILL PICKING UP MY THOUGHTS TELEPATHICALLY, BUT..."

GOING MY WAY??

I CAUGHT HIM BY SURPRISE--HE HASN'T EVEN GONE *INTANGIBLE* ON ME! I'LL BET HE WAS--

UH-OH! 'MOMENTUM'S CARRYING US INTO MERCURY'S GRAVITY--CAN'T STOP--!

ERADICATOR'S GONE *SLACK*--HE'S NOT FIGHTING IT!

I'VE *GOT* TO TWIST SO THAT HE TAKES THE *BRUNT*--!

"IT'S DIFFICULT TO ENJOY SUCH SPECTACULAR FOOTAGE, KNOWING THAT THERE ARE LIVES AT STAKE..."

"...STILL ONE CANNOT DENY THE THRILL IN WITNESSING SUCH A VIOLENT ACT OF MOTHER NATURE'S..."

"...BUT SUCH THRILLS QUICKLY FADE, WITH THE REALITY OF FAMILIES FORCED TO PACK UP THEIR PRIZED POSSESSIONS..."

"...FORCED TO ABANDON THE HOMES THEY WORKED SO HARD FOR, TO SEEK SAFER GROUND, OUT OF NATURE'S WICKED GRASP."

6

"THIS IS CATHERINE GRANT, WGBS NEWS."

OH, MURRAY--THAT STILL SOUNDED TRITE!

CAAAAT, IT'S A TWO-MINUTE BIT--YOU CAN'T GET *DEPTH* IN TWO MINUTES!

MAYBE YOU'RE RI--EEEK!

WHAT?-- OH!

YOU'VE GOT *WANDERING HANDS*, MISTER EDGE! WE *WERE* RECORDING...

CALL ME VINNIE, DOLL. LET'S TALK.

MY SON MORGAN WILL BE PAROLED SOON, AND SINCE *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO SENT HIM UP THE RIVER...

...I FIGURE *YOU* COULD USE A *FRIEND* IN YOUR CORNER.

ONE WHO'S CEO OF GALAXY BROADCASTING...

NOT *THIS* SCENE AGAIN, CAT...

YOU LOVE THIS JOB, BUT THERE *ARE* OTHER TV STATIONS...

BE STRONG-- STAND UP TO HIM!

WHAT SAY WE DELVE DEEPER AT DINNER?

EASTERN ST

DINNER DOESN'T SOUND-- I HAVE PLANS WITH MY *BOYFRIEND*...

PITY. WE *WERE* TALKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE, NOW, CATHERINE.

NO NO NO, DON'T SAY IT DON'T--

UH, WELL, ALL RIGHT-- I COULD CALL AND CANCEL MY PLANS WITH HIM, I SUPPOSE.

DAILY PLANET

HI. YOU'VE REACHED 555-2428. WE'RE NOT IN NOW, BUT LEAVE A MESSAGE AT THE BEEEP

JOSE? I GUESS YOU AND ADAM ARE OUT IN THIS SWELTERING HEAT...

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO *SCRATCH* PIZZA NIGHT TONIGHT, BOYS. L'IL OLD ME HAS TO, UM, *WORK* LATE...

THERE'S MONEY IN THE COOKIE JAR, SO YOU TWO CAN HAVE "BIG BELLY BURGERS" ON ME! WE'LL HAVE PIZZA TOMORROW...

"...WELL, I HOPE MY TWO MEN ARE HAVING FUN, WHEREVER YOU ARE. 'BYE!'"

...GONNA NEED A COUPLE SOLITARY MINUTES, CHAMP.

PERRY WHITE JUNIOR

HECK, JOSE, YOU'RE NOT GONNA *CRY* OR NOTHING, ARE YOU?

JUST WANT TO *PAY* MY *RESPECTS* TO A FALLEN FRIEND, ADAM.

OKAY.

JUST LIKE *YOU*, NOTHING FAZES *THIS* KID, JERRY. THOUGH I PRAY I CAN STEER HIM DOWN A DIFFERENT PATH...

WONDER WHAT THEY TASTE--

GET HIM!

...THAN THE ONE THAT LED TO YOUR DEATH, OLD BUDDY.

YUCH! APPLES GROWING IN A CEMETERY!

THE DUKES ARE TAKIN' YOU DOWN, DELGADO!

MAN'S FAST, RED!

THAT'S WHY ELVIS SENT FIVE OF US, SONNY!

ELVIS? ELVIS LOPEZ WAS THE "DUKES" LEADER UNTIL--

WHOOPS

PUHLEASE GOD, DON'T LET THE BAD GUYS SEE ME...

VERNON! HOLD THE "TEACHER" STILL!

GOOD WOOD ON THAT ONE!

GET HIM INTO THE ROLLS!

I HEARD SOMETHING.

YEAH. GHOSTS!

LEND SOME MUSCLE, NICK!

THEY HURT JOSE, AND IT'S MY FAULT! BUT WHAT DO I DO NOW?

"I DON'T KNOW NOTHING! I'M JUST A LITTLE KID!"

BY THE TIME I FIGURE THIS LOCK OUT, MY LEASE WILL BE UP.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, RUSTY!

I'M SO SORRY! I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING I FORGOT!

DEPOSIT AND FIRST RENT CHECK!

I, UH, HAD IT IN MY WALLET SINCE YESTERDAY...

"... WHEN IT WAS DUE.

DON'T GET OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT WITH ME, OLSEN-- AND REMEMBER...

"... NO LOUD PARTIES." I'LL REMEMBER.

DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE ANY PARTIES UNTIL I LAND A JOB TO PAY NEXT MONTH'S RENT!

I WON'T TAKE MONEY FROM MOM, EITHER! I COULD STAND TO RAID HER REFRIGERATOR, THOUGH.

THERE'S BOUND TO BE A KETTLE FULL OF HER WORLD-FAMOUS BEEF STEW IN--

AHH, I'D BETTER NOT EVEN LET HER SUSPECT I'M OUT OF WORK!

BOOKS

RECORDS

SHLEP BROS MOVING/STORAGE

FRAGILE

THIS END UP

FRAGILE

THIS END UP

COLOR TV

MAYBE MY PAL CLARK CAN HELP.

HE AND LOIS TRIED TO TALK TO ME WHEN I WAS FIRED BY FOSWELL. BUT I JUST HAD TO SPLIT!

SHLEP BROS. MOVING/STORAGE

THIS ISN'T CLARK. IT'S A MACHINE. PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER...

;SIGH; AT LEAST THE PHONE BILL WON'T BE DUE FOR A MONTH...

DING

DONG

SHLEP BROS. MOVING/STORAGE

CITYWIDE CABLE. YOU JAMES BARTHOLOMEW OLSEN? I'VE GOT AN INSTALLATION ORDER--

UHH, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG PLACE.

WEASEL.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO...

CITY WIDE CABLE

"...FOR MONEY?"

DAILY PLANET

UNFORTUNATELY WE DON'T HAVE ANY POSITIONS OPEN RIGHT NOW...

EDITOR

I--SEE.

DON'T GET ME WRONG--YOUR WRITING SAMPLES ARE VERY GOOD...

...IT'S JUST THAT THE *PAPER* HAD TO LAY OFF *TEN* PERCENT OF STAFF YESTERDAY. MONEY IS TIGHT, MR. TROUPE.

I SEE. SAY, IS PERRY WHITE STILL HERE?

HE GAVE A TALK AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY LAST TERM AND I'D LIKE TO SAY "HI."

ITE

OR

MR. WHITE IS ON LEAVE FROM THE 'PLANET, UH--RICK?

NOW EXCUSE ME, BUT I DO HAVE A PAPER TO PUBLISH!

THE NAME IS *RON*, MR. *FOSDICK*. THANKS FOR YOUR TIME!

ITE

OR

AND THAT'S *FOSWELL*, KID! *FOSDICK'S* THE *DETECTIVE!*

ANYONE *SEEN* OR *HEARD* FROM CLARK KENT, MISS MERLO?

"DID HE JUST DROP OFF THE EDGE OF THE WORLD OR SOMETHING?"

DID I DO IT?

THE ERADICATOR--WHERE IS--IT?

GOD, WHAT I WOULDN'T DO FOR A LUNG-FUL OF FRESH AIR...

EVEN SCALDED LIKE A LOBSTER, THE SUN FEELS GOOD ON MY BACK--AT LEAST FROM *THIS* DISTANCE...

WE MUST BE ON THE PLANET *MERCURY*--! OH NO...!

YOU FORCE ME INTO THIS *PHYSICAL* COMBAT, KAL-EL...

"...SEEKING TO DELAY YOUR INEVITABLE END..."

...WHEN I AM CONSUMED ONLY BY VISIONS OF A NEW KRYPTON.

MERCURY'S MAGNETIC FIELD SEEMS TO BE SCRAMBLING THIS THING'S POWERS...

YOUR THOUGHTS-- ARE NOT CLEAR TO ME...

I'VE GOT TO BREAK FROM HIS GRASP...

IF I SWING AT HIM HE JUST MAY--

YEP. HE BECAME INTANGIBLE TO AVOID THE IMPACT...

NOW'S MY CHANCE-- COME ON, CLARK--A WORLD RECORD HIGH JUMP-- DO IT!

I'VE BROKEN FROM THE PLANET'S GRAVITY-- EARTH, HERE I--

...COME, THIS MUST END...

"...I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS ON YOUR ADOPTED WORLD."

A MILE BENEATH AN ICE FLOE IN ANTARCTICA...

...AND I'M SO WARM I KEEP DOZING OFF...

...IN THE MIDDLE OF MY ANALYSES OF THIS "MAGICAL" GEMSTONE!

I'M NO CLOSER NOW TO DETERMINING HOW THIS THING STEALS HUMAN SOULS, THAN WHEN SUPERMAN BROUGHT ME HERE!

ARE YOU COMFORTABLE, EMIL HAMILTON?

WHUZZA? WHO? OH--YES.

WELL, NO, REALLY.

PERHAPS I MIGHT SUGGEST A DIVERSION?

OH, YES, YES. A STROLL MIGHT BE IN ORDER...

I SHALL GENERATE A TEMPERATURE ZONE IN MY WAKE TO KEEP YOU SUFFICIENTLY COMFORTABLE. COME ALONG, PROFESSOR.

SIMPLY AMAZING!

KAL-EL MAINTAINS HIS JOURNAL IN HERE...

A SPACECRAFT FOR A CHILD?

KAL-EL'S *MATRIX*-CHAMBER.

KRYPTONIAN BATTLESUIT. CARE TO TAKE IT FOR A FEW ROTATIONS?

YOWSA!

OH MY... YES--

A TRIBUTE IN STATUE TO HIS GENETIC DONORS, JOR-EL AND LARA.

HOW GRAND.

"--THAT WOULD OFFER AN INTERESTING DIVERSION."

NEWGOTHAM

WELL, I'M JUST HAVING THE MOST MARVELOUS TIME.

IT CAN'T BE COINCIDENCE THAT YOUR SON CLARK BOOKED YOU ON THE SAME CRUISE AS US, MARTHA!

YOU COULD'VE KNOCKED US OVER WITH A FEATHER WHEN WE FOUND OUT YOU WERE *THE* PERRY WHITE OF THE DAILY PLANET!

CLARK'S ALWAYS SPOKEN SO HIGHLY OF YOU BOTH!

HE'S ONE OF THE REAL GOOD GUYS, MARTHA-- JON...

YOU MUST BE VERY PROUD OF HOW WELL HE TURNED OUT.

OH YES, WELL...

I'D ALWAYS WISHED THE SAME FOR ALICE'S AND MY BOY JERRY --EH?

UM, WHY DON'T WE ALL GO TO THE DINING ROOM FOR *HIGH TEA*? YOU MUST TRY THE SCONES.

WHY, LANDS SAKES-- THAT SOUNDS "VEDDY BRITISH."

WHOA OH...!

BETTER BRING THE SEA-SICKNESS PILLS, THOUGH PA...

GREAT CAESAR'S-- WOOOF!

OH, MY!

I'VE GOT YOU, ALICE...

YOU'VE GOT ME-- BUT WHO'S GOT YOU?

CAPTAIN JORDAN, WE'RE AT *SEA-STATE EIGHT* WITH GALE WINDS AT *80* KNOTS!

ISSUE THE ALARM!

DO NOT BE ALARMED, BUT DUE TO ROUGH WATERS THE CAPTAIN HAS REQUESTED ALL PASSENGERS DON THEIR *LIFEVESTS*.

NOW, WHY DOESN'T THAT CALM ME?

ALL RECREATION ACTIVITIES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. ANY NEWS, WILL BE UPDATED.

"LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, METROPOLIS HAS BEEN LIKENED, BY MY OPPONENTS, TO A SINKING SHIP..."

PLANET

WELL, ONLY A *REAL* RAT WOULD *DESERT* HER IN HER TIME OF NEED, NOW, WOULDN'T THEY?

777

HOTEL KAHAN

DID HE JUST CALL HIMSELF A RAT?

IT WILL TAKE A *SEASONED* NAVIGATOR TO STEER THIS FINE SHIP OUT OF STORMY WATERS...

BERKOWITZ

CARIBBEAN ROOM

...THAT'S WHY I'M ANNOUNCING MY BID TO RUN FOR ANOTHER TERM AS *MAYOR*.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR TIME AND I LOOK FORWARD TO A GOOD CLEAN CAMPAIGN!

DONE ALREADY? LOIS LANE, WHERE'S YOUR HEAD AT?

'GUESS I WAS TOO DISTRACTED--WORRYING ABOUT CLARK, WHO'S OFF SOMEWHERE FIGHTING THAT ERADICATOR!

WHO WROTE HIS SPEECH?

CARIBBEAN

HE WAS LAST SEEN AS SUPERMAN SEVERAL HOURS AGO.

TAXI!

TAXI

REPORTS SAID HE TOOK QUITE A BEATING...

THINK *POSITIVE*, GIRL! HE NEEDS YOU TO BELIEVE IN HIM...

...BESIDES, IF HE CAN'T STOP THE ERADICATOR...

CITY OF METROPOLIS

OFF TAXI DUTY

"...THIS PLANET WON'T BE FIT TO LIVE ON ANYWAY!"

RATS ARE SCURRYING!

SUBWAY TUNNEL'S ABOVE US.

JUST THE E TRAIN RUMBLING BY.

Y-YOU SURE?

KID'S SCARED...

...HE'S THE *WEAK* LINK.

THERE'S MOVEMENT IN SECTOR 2304-C. FIVE KIDS AND A MAN-- *HEY!* WHAT'S DELGADO DOING DOWN HERE,

--HERE YOU GO LADY. WHICH BUILDING?

OH! HERE, STOP HERE.

THERE'RE MOM AND LUCY!

SCREECH!

SEVEN DOLLARS? USED TO BE SIX-FIFTY!

THAT WAS *THEN*, THIS IS *NOW*, LADY!

RATES

MOTHER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE? YOU JUST GOT OUT OF THE *HOSPITAL*!

TOLD YOU SHE'D SAY THAT, MOM!

I NEEDED THE FRESH--

--AIR?

R-RELAX, JUST ANOTHER TREMOR.

IT *PASSED*-- AS FAST AS IT CAME...

LET'S ALL GO INSIDE, OKAY?

WELL...

WE'LL SEE IF THERE'S ANY *NEWS*...

"...ON THE TELEVISION."

ANOTHER TREMOR--AND-- SCREEN'S GONE WHITE!

GUARDIAN, RETURN TO HOME BASE AT ONCE.

DUBBILEX? WELL, JOSE, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.

THOSE RATS KNEW SOMETHING!

IT'LL BE SAFE IN THE BUNKER.

HERE'S THE TEACHER, ELVIS.

FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T STAND UP...

...BUT I GOT CRIPPLED UP BY AN "EAGLE" IN A DRIVE-BY SHOOT!

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?

YOU WAS CRIPPLED, AND NOW YOU'RE WALKING...

"...I WANNA KNOW HOW YOU DONE THAT!"

LAST QUAKE RATTLED SOME CAGES...

CALM DOWN, FELLAS--THAT'S IT, IT'LL BE OKAY...

POOR CREATURES WERE BETTER OFF IN THE WILDS OF LOCH TREVOR* THAN BEING CAGED UP HERE AT CADMUS.

*AS SEEN IN SUPERMAN #43

I SENSE THAT YOU TOO FEEL "CAGED UP" HERE, JIM HARPER.

READING MY THOUGHTS, DUBBILEX?

SORRY. I BRING MORE DISTRESSING NEWS-- PROJECT BLOODHOUND HAS BEEN ACCELERATED.

THE REAPPEARANCE OF THIS KRYPTON MAN HAS RAISED CONCERN OVER SUPERMAN'S MENTAL STATE YET AGAIN...

...IT'S FEARED HE COULD SUFFER ANOTHER BREAK-DOWN."

I HAD AN EXPERIMENTAL OPERATION PERFORMED.*

I WANT TO WALK AGAIN, DELGADO, AND YOU CAN TELL ME HOW YOU DID IT!

*THIS GOES WAY BACK TO ADVENTURES #448

SURE. LET LEXCORP IMPLANT A COMPUTER MICROCHIP INTO YOUR SPINE--NO PROBLEM!

LOOK, I WAS A GUINEA PIG--A FLUKE! NO ONE'S HANDING OUT MIRACLES, PAL!

I NEED MY LEGS...

"...I WANT TO PERSONALLY MAKE THE CREEP WHO DID THIS TO ME SUFFER!

"HE'S GOTTA KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE YOUR DANCING CARD REVOKED!"

AT THIS STAGE, YOU SEE I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO REMAIN ALIVE...

...YOU WOULD NOT ALLOW ME TO RE-MOLD YOUR BELOVED EARTH UNMOLESTED!

OH, YES, I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS ONCE AGAIN...

...YOUR KRYPTONIAN LUNGS ARE ABOUT TO BURST, YOU THINK-- BUT I WOULDN'T WORRY OVER THAT...

...YOU HAVEN'T *YET* HIT YOUR *PHYSICAL* LIMIT.

I SENSE, THOUGH, THAT YOUR MENTAL LIMIT *HAS* BEEN MET-- YOU *WANT* ME TO *END THIS*, NO?

"THAT IS A WISH I WILL GLADLY GRANT...

I BID YOU FAREWELL, SON OF JOR-EL...

LET THIS SUN'S DEATH EMBRACE TAKE YOU WILLINGLY...

DO NOT FIGHT *THAT* WHICH *MUST* BE.

FOR THE *GLORY* OF *KRYPTON* IS WAITING TO BE NURTURED--

-- BY THE *TRUE* LAST SON OF KRYPTON... *ME.*

IT MUST BE REFLECTED IN THEIR ARCHITECTURE, THEIR FASHIONS...

THE INHABITANTS OF EARTH MUST ACCEPT THE INFLUENCES OF ALL THINGS KRYPTONIAN.

"... AND MOST DEFINITELY IN THEIR ICONS!"

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL'S WRECKED BY AN *EARTHQUAKE*, BUT BECAUSE THREE TERRORIST GROUPS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR IT...

... WE HAVE TO MAN TANKS IN *100* DEGREE WEATHER! YEAH!

SHOW SOME RESPECT-- ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS ONE OF OUR GREATEST SYMBOLS-- IF THIS *WAS* A TERRORIST ACT...

MY MEN REALIZE THAT, SIR-- IT'S JUST THAT IT'S PRETTY DARN HOT IN THOSE VEHICLES!

THIS WAS ONE OF YOUR *GREAT* MEN?

HE SHALL BE REMADE AS I SEE FIT.

Y-YOU'RE THAT *ERADICATOR*-- GUY THE MEDIA'S BUZZING ABOUT!

AIEEEEE

EEEEEEEE

THE NECESSARY RAW MATERIAL...

...BROKEN DOWN, RE-MOLDED...

MANIPULATED BY MY HANDS...

...INTO AN IMAGE OF WHAT *MIGHT* HAVE BEEN.

HE KILLED *SEVEN* OF MY MEN TO MAKE A *STATUE*?

HMMMM

LOOK! ONE OF THOSE SUPER-HEROES! GET HIS ATTENTION!

ABE LINCOLN IN A *TOGA*?

HEY, WE'VE GOT A GASOLINE TRUCK ABOUT TO BLOW...

AAAAH... ANOTHER GREAT FIGURE?

BIG BELLY BURGER

BIG BELLY BURGER

BELLY, BELL

WHY'S HE LOOKING OVER HERE?

THE TRUCK IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE...

I ♥ D.C.

THAT CONCERNS ME NOT. YOU MUST LEARN TO LOOK AFTER EACH OTHER, FOR I AM *NOT* YOUR SAVIOR...

...I AM SIMPLY YOUR NEW TEACHER.

I SEEK TO INDOCTRINATE YOU IN ALL THINGS KRYPTONIAN.

YOUR *FOOD GOD*, AS SEEN FROM MY SENSIBILITIES.

WHAT IS *THIS*??

IS THIS GUY A *LOONEY* OR WHAT?

"I DUNNO--MAYBE HE GOT TOO MUCH SUN?"

IT WAS A GAMBLE, FILLING MY HEAD WITH THOUGHTS OF GIVING UP--SO HE WOULD TOSS ME BACK INTO THE SUN.

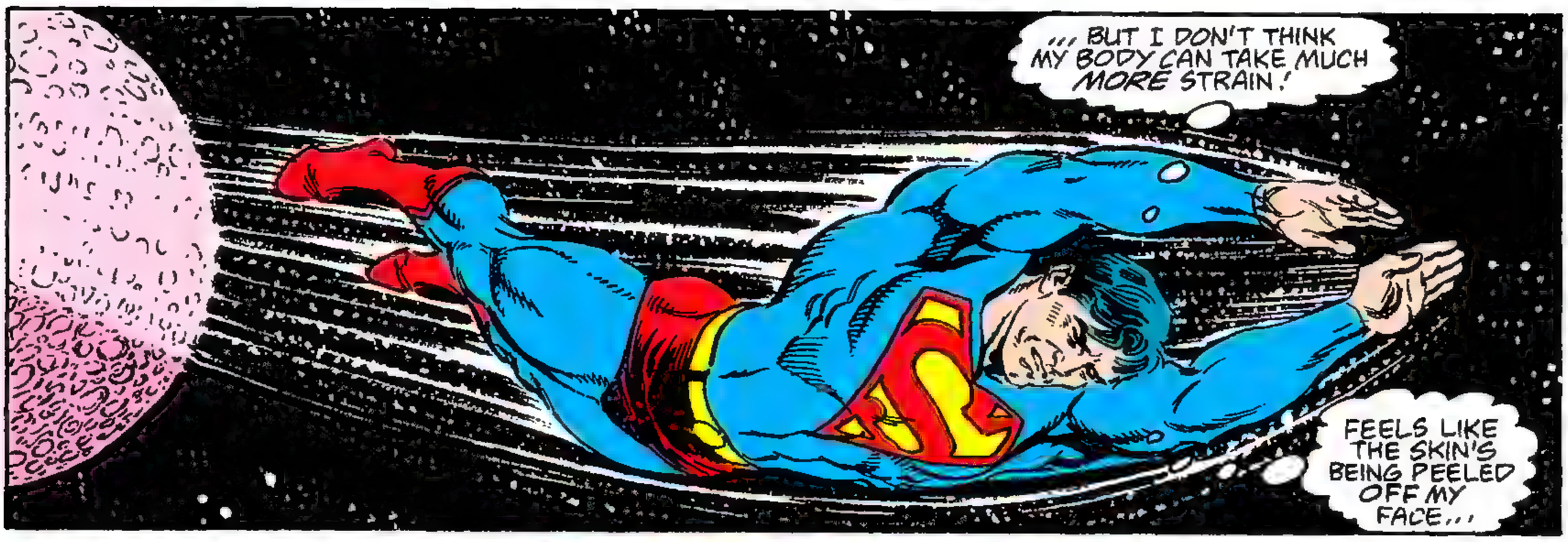
NOW LET'S SEE IF I CAN MANAGE AGAIN TO CHANGE MY TRAJECTORY.

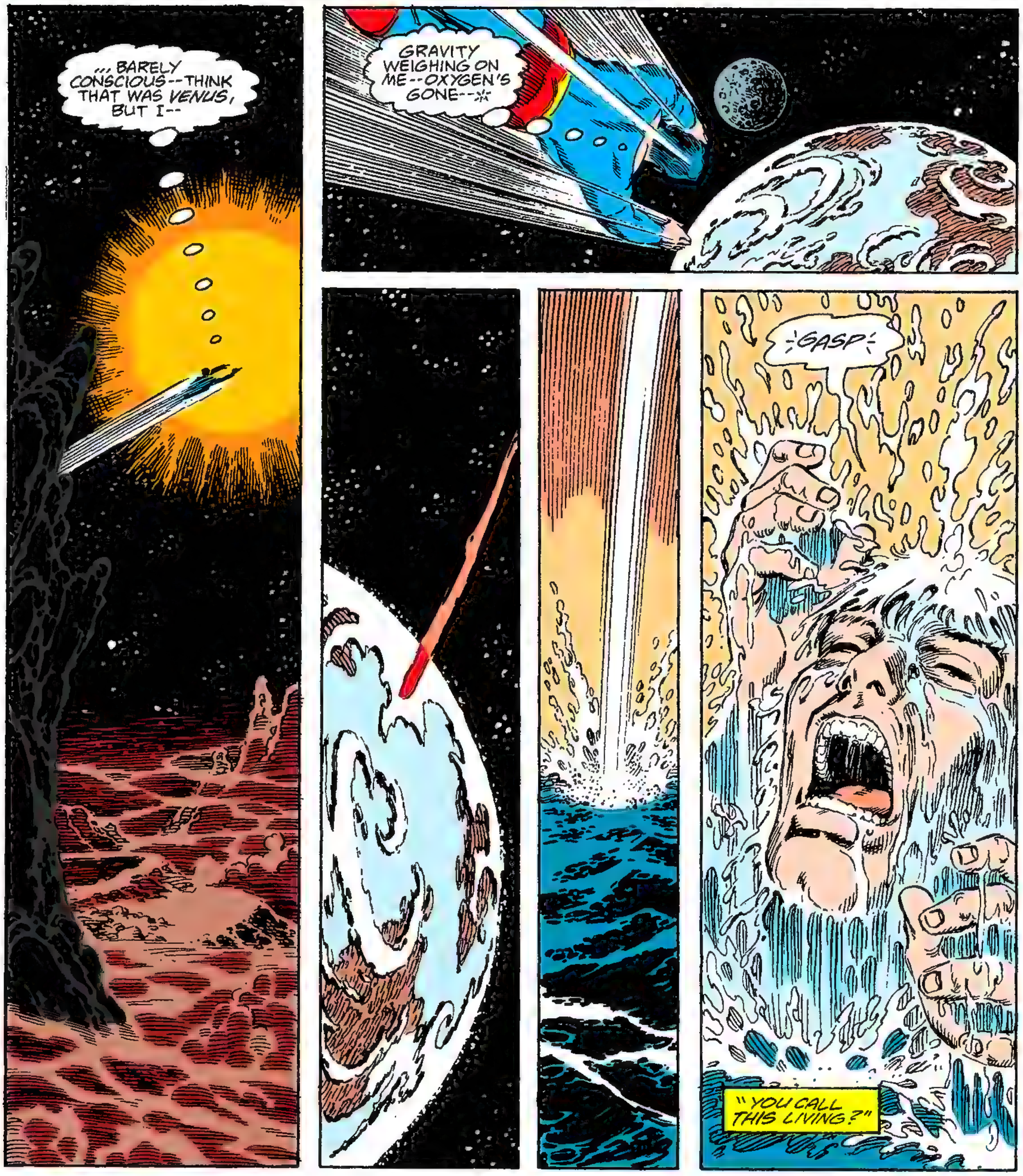
PULLING A LOT OF G'S--ARMS WEIGH A TON--IT'S --WORKING...

:UGHNN: NOW TO SWING BACK PARALLEL TO THE SURFACE OF MERCURY...

GOT TO PUT THE PEDAL TO THE METAL HERE, AND POUR ON THE SPEED--FASTER--FASTER!

GOODBYE MERCURY! I DID IT...


"...BUT I DON'T THINK MY BODY CAN TAKE MUCH MORE STRAIN!"
FEELS LIKE THE SKIN'S BEING PEELED OFF MY FACE...


"...BARELY CONSCIOUS--THINK THAT WAS VENUS, BUT I--
GRAVITY WEIGHING ON ME--OXYGEN'S GONE--*
:GASP:
"YOU CALL THIS LIVING?"

YOU GOT TO TAKE ME TO THE DOCTORS WHO FIXED YOU UP!

CONVINCE THE MAN!

EVEN IF I COULD HELP YOU, I WOULDN'T...

THERE ARE OTHERS MORE DESERVING!

LIKE YOU, YOU MEAN?

I THINK YOU MISSED THE POINT--

LOOK OUT! A BIG RAT!

I WANT A PIECE OF YOU, FOOL!

I DON'T FALL FOR NONE OF THAT FAKE-OUT STUFF NEITHER!

I HOPED YOU'D ALL THROW IN THE TOWEL AT THIS POINT...

...BUT YOU'RE GOING TO FORCE ME TO PUT YOU ALL DOWN, HEY?

CAN'T SAY YOU DON'T DESERVE THIS.

OR HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THAT *KIDNAPPING* IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE?

THAT'S IT FOR YOUR GANG, ELVIS...

...NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO *TALK*...

...CALL ME ON THE PHONE!

I'M AIMING FOR THE *SPINE*.

YOU'RE *ONE TWISTED* KID--I'LL BET YOUR FOLKS ARE *PROUD*!

BLAM

WE'RE ALL GOING TO THE *POLICE*, BUT FIRST...

"... YOU BETTER TELL ME WHERE THE HECK WE ARE!"

BE-EEP-- YOU HAVE TWO MESSAGES.

EE-EEP-- JOSE? I GUESS YOU AND AD--

HUH! THEY DIDN'T GET MY MESSAGE? WHERE'D THEY GO?

EE-EEP-- MOMMY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM-- THEY TOOK JOSE-- AND--I'M SCARED, MOMMY! I DON'T

DEAR GOD, ADAM!

HOW COULD JOSE LET THIS HAPPEN TO MY BABY?

WE'RE NOT STAYING THE NIGHT, MR. EDGE?

NO, NO, GILBERT-- NOT THIS TIME--NOT JUST YET...

THE LIVES THESE PEOPLE LEAD ARE SO-- EMOTIONAL? NO DOUBT A GENETIC FLAW.

LOGIC SHALL SOON RULE THEIR LIVES--???

"TAG, YOU'RE IT"?? WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? OF COURSE...

"...THE FORTRESS!!"

WHOOSH

I HAVE DISABLED MY TRACKING SENSORS AS EMIL HAMILTON HAS REQUESTED.

NOW I MUST EVADE HIM.

WOOO

THIS "TAG, YOU'RE IT", IS NOT WITHIN THE ROBOT SERVANTS' PROGRAMMING.

I CAN *FEEL* THE PRESENCE OF AN EARTHLING...

...WITHIN THE CONFINES OF MY SACRED SHRINE.

I WILL ABIDE SUCH INTRUSIONS NO MORE...

"WITH KAL-EL DEAD, I AM THE MASTER OF THE FORTRESS!

WHILE OFF THE ALASKAN COAST...

...A LONE FIGURE STIRS...

SO-TIRED-- MUST REST

"...BUT-I--CAN'T--

HAVE TO--STOP-ERADI...

:GASP:

PERHAPS KILLING THE EARTHMAN IS RASH...

"...THIS *HUMAN* COULD BE OF USE. IF I INCUR PROBLEMS ASSERTING MY WILL UPON HIS KEN...

NO, I AM CORRECT. HIS *DEATH* WILL SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO *ALL* WHO WOULD TRESPASS HERE.

"TAG..."

YOU, HUMAN...

...ARE IT."

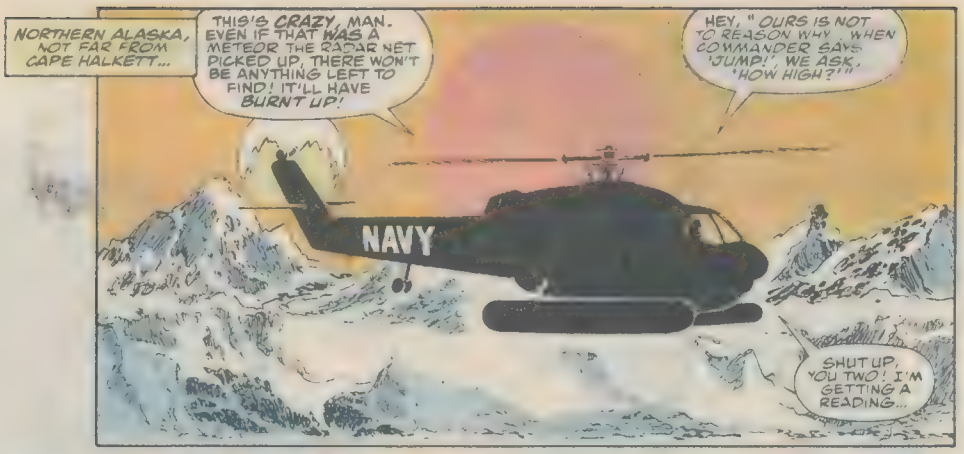
W-W-WHAT?

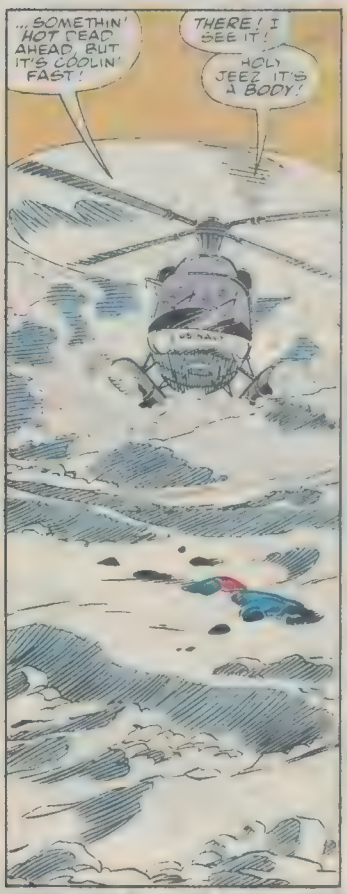
I...; AHEM;...

EMIL HAMILTON? CAN THIS GAME BE PLAYED BY *THREE*?

I-I FEAR SO...

TO BE CONTINUED IN ACTION COMICS #667! DON'T MISS IT!


NORTHERN ALASKA, NOT FAR FROM CAPE HALKETT...
THIS'S CRAZY, MAN. EVEN IF THAT WAS A METEOR THE RADAR NET PICKED UP, THERE WON'T BE ANYTHING LEFT TO FIND! IT'LL HAVE BURNT UP!
HEY, " OURS IS NOT TO REASON WHY... WHEN COMMANDER SAYS 'JUMP!' WE ASK 'HOW HIGH?'"
NAVY
SHUT UP, YOU TWO! I'M GETTING A READING...



IS HE STILL ALIVE?
I CAN'T TELL -- WHAT'S HE WEARIN' SOME KINDA JOGGIN SUIT?
BE CAREFUL WITH HIM!
NAVY
US NAVY
AMIGO? DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?

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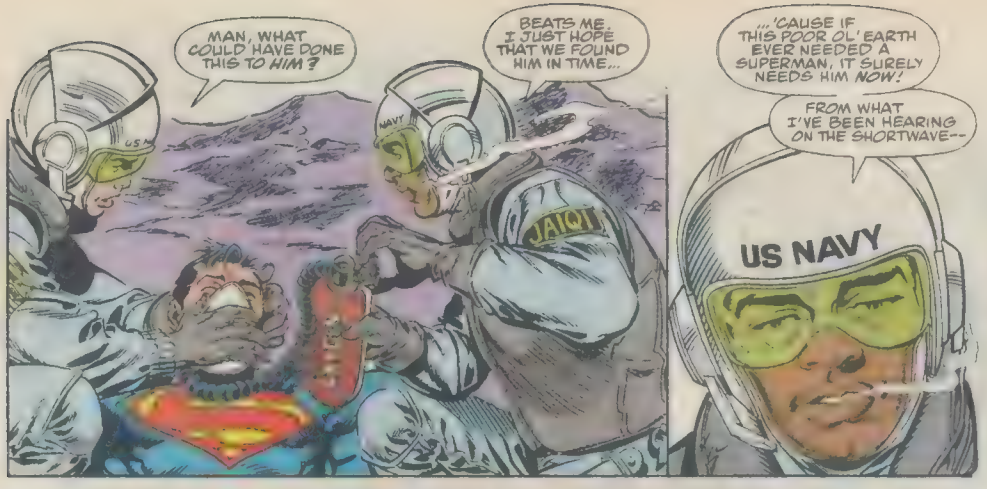
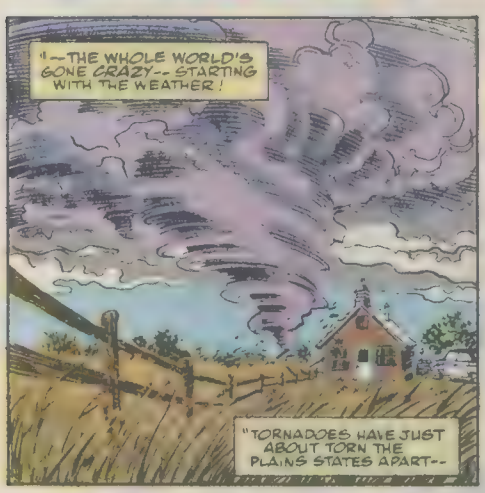
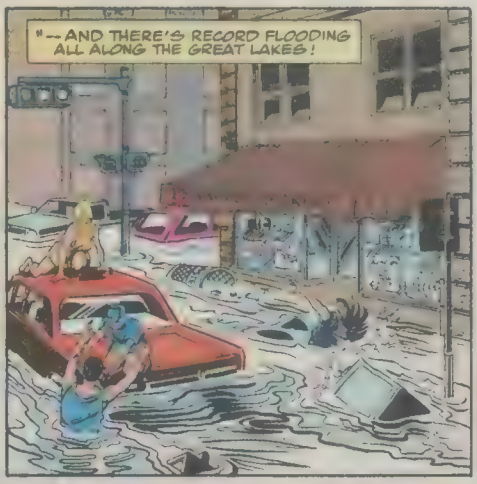
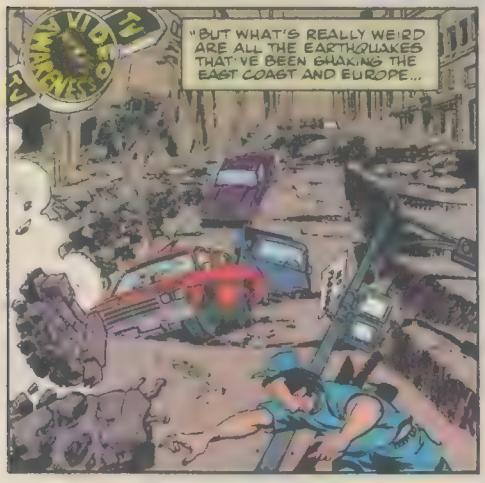
The FINAL CHAPTER

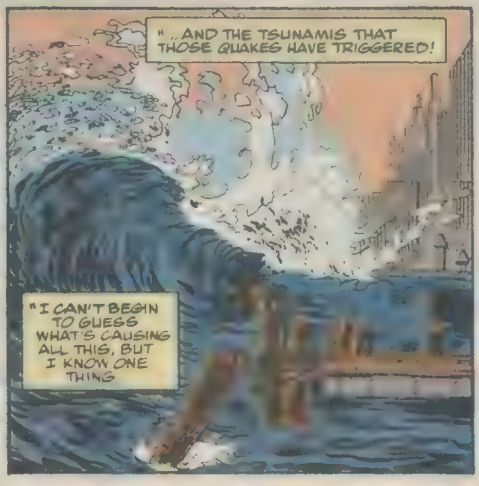
NEITHER DID I, BUT-- LORDY!-- SOMETHING TORE INTO HIM!
HE'S ALIVE, BUT JUST BARELY! PULSE IS WEAK AND RAPID... SUPERFICIAL BURNS AND CONTUSIONS.
SOUNDS LIKE HE'S IN SHOCK.
US NAVY
US NAVY
IAIQI


MAN, WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO HIM?
BEATS ME. I JUST HOPE THAT WE FOUND HIM IN TIME...
...'CAUSE IF THIS POOR OL' EARTH EVER NEEDED A SUPERMAN, IT SURELY NEEDS HIM NOW!
FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN HEARING ON THE SHORTWAVE--
US NAVY
JAIQI


"--THE WHOLE WORLD'S GONE CRAZY-- STARTING WITH THE WEATHER!
"TORNADOES HAVE JUST ABOUT TORN THE PLAINS STATES APART--


"--AND THERE'S RECORD FLOODING ALL ALONG THE GREAT LAKES!


"BUT WHAT'S REALLY WEIRD ARE ALL THE EARTHQUAKES THAT'VE BEEN SHAKING THE EAST COAST AND EUROPE...


"...AND THE TSUNAMIS THAT THOSE QUAKES HAVE TRIGGERED!
"I CAN'T BEGIN TO GUESS WHAT'S CAUSING ALL THIS, BUT I KNOW ONE THING

"...I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE OUT ON THE HIGH SEAS RIGHT NOW!"
PLEASE! LET'S ALL REMAIN CALM!
THE CALL TO DON LIFE VESTS WAS GIVEN MERELY AS A ROUTINE PRECAUTION.
I CAN ASSURE YOU, THE CAPTAIN IS DOING EVERYTHING HE CAN TO GET US SAFELY THROUGH THIS STORMFRONT...
...WITH ANY KIND OF LUCK, IT'LL BLOW ITSELF OUT IN AN HOUR OR SO. UNTIL THEN, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE REVIEW OUR EMERGENCY PROCEDURES?
OH!
HOLD YOUR HORSES, SON!
LEMME GO, POPS! I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO-- SWIM TO SHORE? SLOW DOWN AND THINK-- 'FORE YOU HURT SOMEBODY!
THERE NOW... THOSE KIDS OKAY?
THEY'LL BE FINE, JONATHAN... WON'T YOU, CHILDREN? MY NAME'S MARTHA, WHAT'S YOURS?
J-J-JOEY. WE WERE S-SCARED.
WE LOST MOMMY AN' DADDY IN THE CROWD.
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL HELP YOU FIND THEM.
YOU BET WE WILL! EVERYBODY-- LISTEN UP! I'M PERRY WHITE OF THE DAILY PLANET-- IF ANY OF YOU'VE HEARD OF ME, YOU KNOW I DON'T STAND FOR ANY GUFF.
WELL, FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THE CREW OF THIS SHIP IS FIRST-RATE. IT'S IN OUR BEST INTERESTS TO PAY ATTENTION AND DO WHAT THEY SAY!
MR. WHITE IS RIGHT.

"...THIS IS NO TIME TO PANIC!"
LUCY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MOM! IT'S OKAY..
RRRRUUMMMMBBB
...I'VE BEEN THROUGH 'QUAKES BEFORE... WHEN I WAS IN CALIFORNIA WITH THE AIRLINE. A DOORWAY'S THE SAFEST SPOT.
THESE AFTERSHOCKS NEVER LAST LONG...
...THERE, YOU SEE? ALL DONE.
I HOPE.
THANK HEAVENS! BUT WHAT A MESS!
I HOPE YOUR FATHER IS ALL RIGHT... AND YOUR SISTER! I WISH SHE HADN'T LEFT AFTER THAT LAST TREMOR.
MO-THER! LOIS IS A REPORTER...
...IT'S HER JOB TO BE OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS!
SHE'S LIKE DADDY... SHE KNOWS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HERSELF!
DON'T MAKE A LIAR OUT OF ME, SIS...
"...PLEASE.
AT TIMES LIKE THESE, YOU'D EXPECT PEOPLE TO PULL TO-GETHER...
...TO HELP EACH OTHER THROUGH DISASTERS, AND USUALLY THEY DO... YOU EXPECT THAT. BUT TODAY, YOU'D BE DISAPPOINTED.
NEW PARAGRAPH... THE LOOTING THAT'S FOLLOWED IN THE AFTERMATH OF ALL THE 'QUAKES AND AFTER-SHOCKS SERVES AS FURTHER EVIDENCE --
--THAT THIS CITY IS IN BIG, BIG TROUBLE!

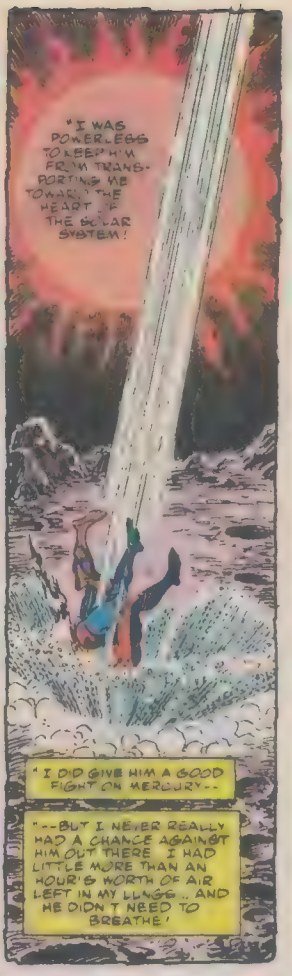
NO NEED FOR TROUBLE NOW.
KEEP QUIET, AN' YA WON' GET--
--HUR-R-RT!
HAI--
--YAA!!
KRAK
KLA-KLUNK
WHUUU:
STAY RIGHT THERE, AND DON'T MOVE!
WEEEOOOO
POLICE! OVER HERE!!
...AND YOU'RE SURE THAT YOU'RE OKAY, MS. LANE?
ASIDE FROM AN ADRENALINE RUSH AND A LITTLE REVULSION, I'M FINE, THANKS.
WELL. IF YOU HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS, YOU CALL THAT CRISIS HOTLINE.
WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK.
ALL THIS LOOTING... WE COULD SURE USE SUPERMAN'S HELP TONIGHT!
YES... COULDN'T WE ALL!
WHERE ARE YOU, CLARK...

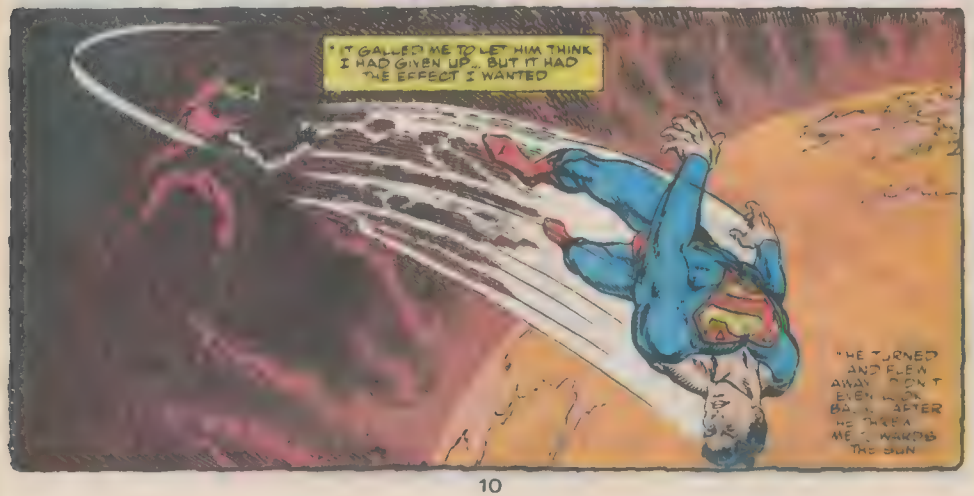
DON'T--!!
:UHH:
GOTTA GET IT...
...TOGETHER!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! I'M SURPRISED THAT HE COULD STAND, MUCH LESS FLY!
I HEARD THAT, SAILOR.
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, THAT WASN'T TOO BRIGHT OF ME.
AT LEAST THE RUSH OF AIR IS HELPING TO CLEAR MY HEAD.
DIDN'T THINK I COULD STAND, EH?
AFTER WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH, IT'S A GREATER WONDER THAT I'M STILL ALIVE!
MY INVULNERABILITY DOESN'T AMOUNT TO MUCH--

"--AGAINST THE POWER OF THE ERADICATOR
"I'D HURLED IT INTO THE SUN MONTHS AGO! I NEVER EXPECTED TO SEE IT AGAIN.. CERTAINLY NOT IN HUMANOID FORM.*
"IT WAS CLEARLY THE ERADICATOR, THOUGH STILL TRYING TO FULFILL ITS PROGRAMMING TO PRESERVE ITS CONCEPT OF KRYPTON...
"...DESPITE THE FACT THAT KRYPTON DIED DECADES AGO!

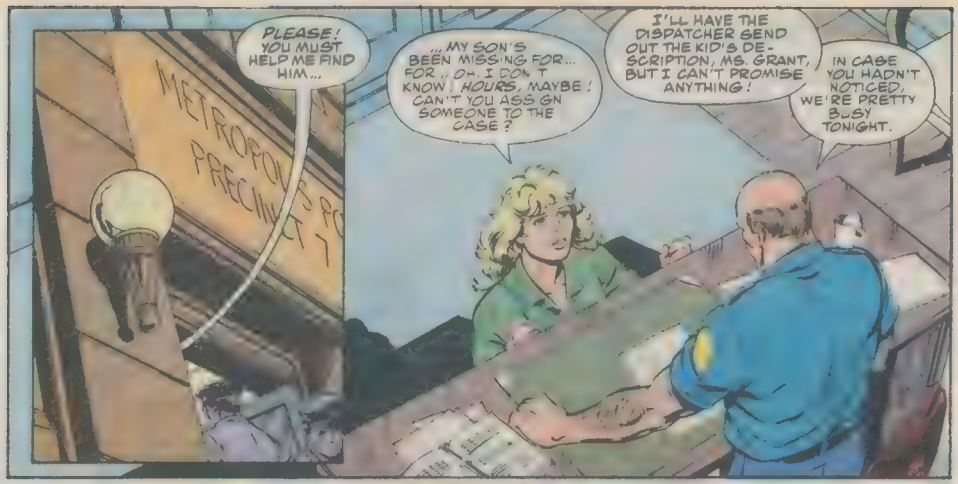
*IN SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #1.

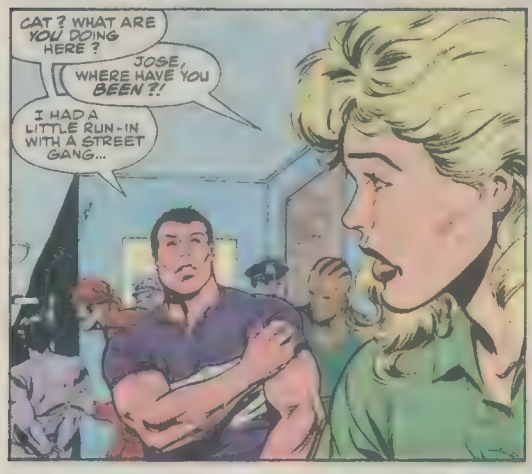
"WITH THE POWER IT HAD ABSORBED FROM THE SUN, THE ERADICATOR WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER
"I CAN'T GET OVER HOW EASILY IT REBUILT A BLOCK OF METROPOLIS TENEMENTS INTO A KRYPTONIAN SHOWCASE...
"...OR HOW EASILY IT DEALT WITH MY 'INTERFERENCE.'*
*IN SUPERMAN #67.


"I WAS POWERLESS TO KEEP HIM FROM TRANSPORTING ME TOWARD THE HEART OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM!
"I DID GIVE HIM A GOOD FIGHT ON MERCURY--
"--BUT I NEVER REALLY HAD A CHANCE AGAINST HIM OUT THERE. I HAD LITTLE MORE THAN AN HOUR'S WORTH OF AIR LEFT IN MY LUNGS.. AND HE DIDN'T NEED TO BREATHE!

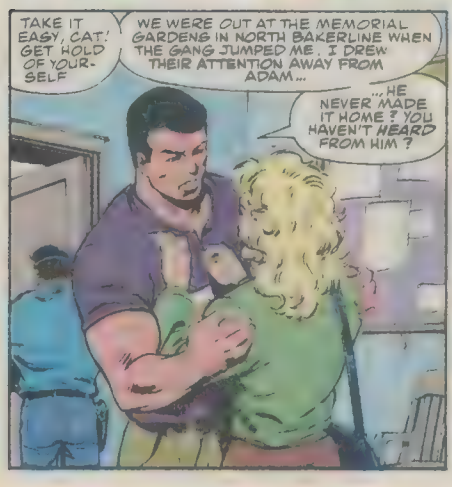

"IT GALLED ME TO LET HIM THINK I HAD GIVEN UP.. BUT IT HAD THE EFFECT I WANTED
"HE TURNED AND FLEW AWAY. I DON'T EVEN LOOK BACK. AFTER HE PASSES ME, I WARP TO THE SUN

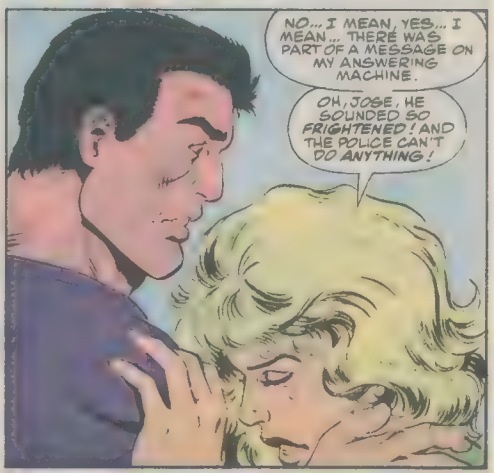
"IT TOOK ALL THE POWER I COULD MUSTER TO EVADE THE SUN'S PULL--
"--AND SWING AROUND AND AROUND MERCURY'S GRAVITATIONAL FIELD.
"...BUILDING UP THE INCREDIBLE VELOCITY I NEEDED TO BREAK FREE--
"--AND HURL MYSELF BACK TO EARTH
"I'D NEVER FLOWN SO FAR, SO FAST, UNDER MY OWN POWER BEFORE.
"THE STARS WERE JUST A BLUR TO ME.
"DURING THE FINAL MINUTES OF FLIGHT I WAS AFRAID THAT I'D MISS MY TARGET... THAT I'D SHOOT PAST THE EARTH, OUT OF CONTROL."
I SLAMMED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE JUST IN TIME. * I CAME SO CLOSE TO ASPHYXIATING--!
OF COURSE, GIVEN MY VELOCITY, I'M LUCKY THAT THE IMPACT OF LANDING DIDN'T KILL ME
* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN # 480
I NEVER WANT TO CUT IT THAT CLOSE AGAIN. ANOTHER MINUTE AND I'D HAVE JOINED MY KRYPTONIAN ANCESTORS. BUT I MUSTN'T DWELL ON THAT--
-- NOT WITH THE ERADICATOR STILL AT LARGE. I KNOW THAT HE... "HE"? I HAVE TO STOP THINKING OF IT THAT WAY...
"...I KNOW THAT IT RETURNED TO EARTH AHEAD OF ME. THIS PLANET HAS BEEN ITS PRIME CANDIDATE TO BECOME A NEW KRYPTON.
THE ERADICATOR IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE. IT'S PROBABLY CAUSED ALL MANNER OF GRIEF WHILE I WAS FIGHTING MY WAY BACK... AND I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ALL.
I WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE ERADICATOR TO EARTH. AND NOW, SOMEHOW, I MUST STOP IT. BUT FIRST, I HAVE TO FIND IT!


METROPOLIS PO
PRECINCT 1
PLEASE! YOU MUST HELP ME FIND HIM...
...MY SON'S BEEN MISSING FOR... FOR... OH, I DON'T KNOW! HOURS, MAYBE! CAN'T YOU ASSIGN SOMEONE TO THE CASE?
I'LL HAVE THE DISPATCHER SEND OUT THE KID'S DESCRIPTION, MS. GRANT, BUT I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING!
IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED, WE'RE PRETTY BUSY TONIGHT.


CAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
JOSE, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
I HAD A LITTLE RUN-IN WITH A STREET GANG...

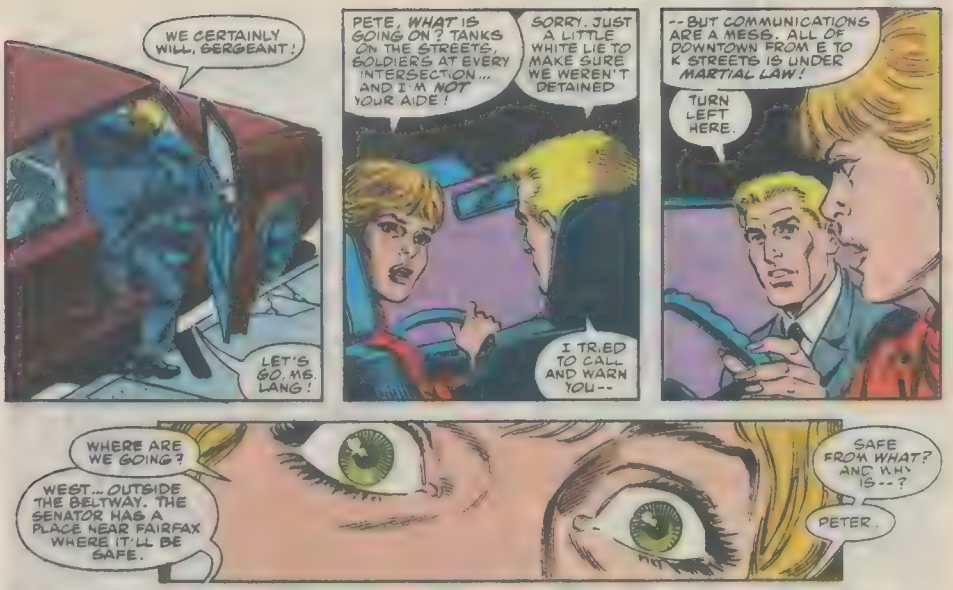
ADAM?! ADAM'S GONE! LOST!!
JOSE DELGADO, WHERE DID YOU TAKE MY BABY?!
...S ADAM OKAY? I HAD TO--!

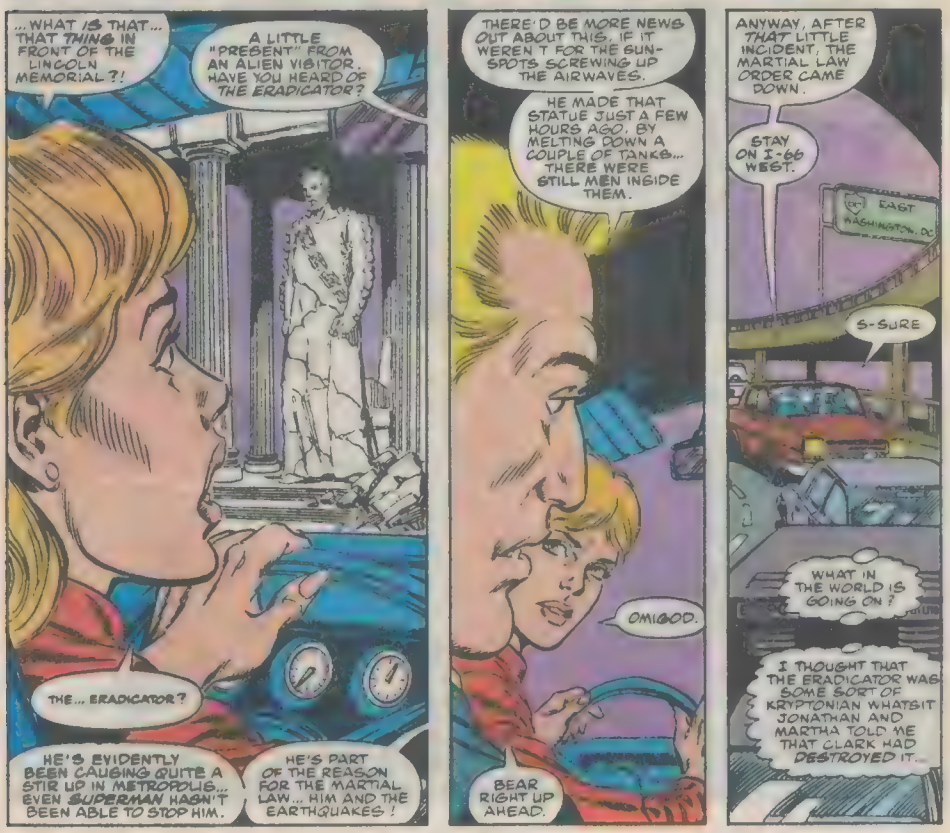

TAKE IT EASY, CAT! GET HOLD OF YOURSELF
WE WERE OUT AT THE MEMORIAL GARDENS IN NORTH BAKERLINE WHEN THE GANG JUMPED ME. I DREW THEIR ATTENTION AWAY FROM ADAM...
...HE NEVER MADE IT HOME? YOU HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HIM?


NO... I MEAN, YES... I MEAN... THERE WAS PART OF A MESSAGE ON MY ANSWERING MACHINE.
OH, JOSE, HE SOUNDED SO FRIGHTENED! AND THE POLICE CAN'T DO ANYTHING!

IT'S OKAY... WE'LL FIND HIM.
YOU SAID, "PART OF A MESSAGE"--?
UH-HUH, DARN MACHINE WAS ACTING UP AGAIN. I SHOULD HAVE REPLACED IT LONG AGO!
ADAM'S LIVED MOST OF HIS LIFE IN CALIFORNIA. HE COULD'VE TAKEN THE WRONG SUBWAY ... HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
WORRYING WON'T HELP FIND HIM. I... OH, NO!
DID YOU DRIVE HERE?
YES. WHY--?
I THOUGHT I RECOGNIZED YOUR CAR.
EXCUSE ME, OFFICER--?
WE WERE HERE ON POLICE BUSINESS.
NO PARKING ZONE
--WE GOTTA KEEP THIS STREET CLEAR!
HEY, I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE MAYOR'S NEPHEW--
TICKET
WELL, AT LEAST IT WASN'T TOWED!
COME ON CAT... BETTER LET ME DRIVE
A-ALL RIGHT.
BACK TO YOUR PLACE. I WANT TO HEAR THAT MESSAGE FOR MYSELF!
BUT... WHERE ARE WE GOING?
YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE...

...THE FOLLOWING STREETS HAVE BEEN CLOSED TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC : FIRST AND SECOND, FROM INDEPENDENCE TO CONSTITUTION...
...MARYLAND AVENUE... A STREET... EAST CAPITOL...
OH, NO!
SORRY, MA'AM, YOU CAN'T COME THIS WAY!
I'VE BEEN GOING IN CIRCLES FOR HOURS! HOW CAN I GET TO THE CAPITOL?
YOU CAN'T... NOT TONIGHT!
BUT I'M LATE TO PICK UP--!
LANA!
IT'S OKAY, SERGEANT--
--I'M WITH SENATOR CALDWELL'S OFFICE. MY... AH... AIDE, MS. LANG, JUST MISSED GETTING HER SECURITY PASS.
UH-HUH
...WELL, YOUR PAPERS ARE IN ORDER, MR. ROSS. YOU AND THE LADY CAN PASS. BUT I'D ADVISE YOU TO GET OVER TO CONSTITUTION PRONTO.
OTHERWISE, YOU'RE GONNA GET STOPPED EVERY BLOCK


WE CERTAINLY WILL, SERGEANT!
LET'S GO, MS. LANG!
PETE, WHAT IS GOING ON? TANKS ON THE STREETS, SOLDIERS AT EVERY INTERSECTION... AND I'M NOT YOUR AIDE!
SORRY. JUST A LITTLE WHITE LIE TO MAKE SURE WE WEREN'T DETAINED
I TRIED TO CALL AND WARN YOU--
--BUT COMMUNICATIONS ARE A MESS. ALL OF DOWNTOWN FROM E TO K STREETS IS UNDER MARTIAL LAW!
TURN LEFT HERE.
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WEST... OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY. THE SENATOR HAS A PLACE NEAR FAIRFAX WHERE IT'LL BE SAFE.
SAFE FROM WHAT? AND WHY IS--?
PETER.


...WHAT IS THAT... THAT THING IN FRONT OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL?!
A LITTLE "PRESENT" FROM AN ALIEN VISITOR. HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE ERADICATOR?
THE... ERADICATOR?
HE'S EVIDENTLY BEEN CAUSING QUITE A STIR UP IN METROPOLIS... EVEN SUPERMAN HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO STOP HIM.
HE'S PART OF THE REASON FOR THE MARTIAL LAW... HIM AND THE EARTHQUAKES!
THERE'D BE MORE NEWS OUT ABOUT THIS, IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE SUN-SPOTS SCREWING UP THE AIRWAVES.
HE MADE THAT STATUE JUST A FEW HOURS AGO, BY MELTING DOWN A COUPLE OF TANKS... THERE WERE STILL MEN INSIDE THEM.
OMIGOD.
BEAR RIGHT UP AHEAD.
ANYWAY, AFTER THAT LITTLE INCIDENT, THE MARTIAL LAW ORDER CAME DOWN.
STAY ON I-66 WEST.
EAST WASHINGTON, DC
S-SURE
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?
I THOUGHT THAT THE ERADICATOR WAS SOME SORT OF KRYPTONIAN WHATSIT JONATHAN AND MARTHA TOLD ME THAT CLARK HAD DESTROYED IT...

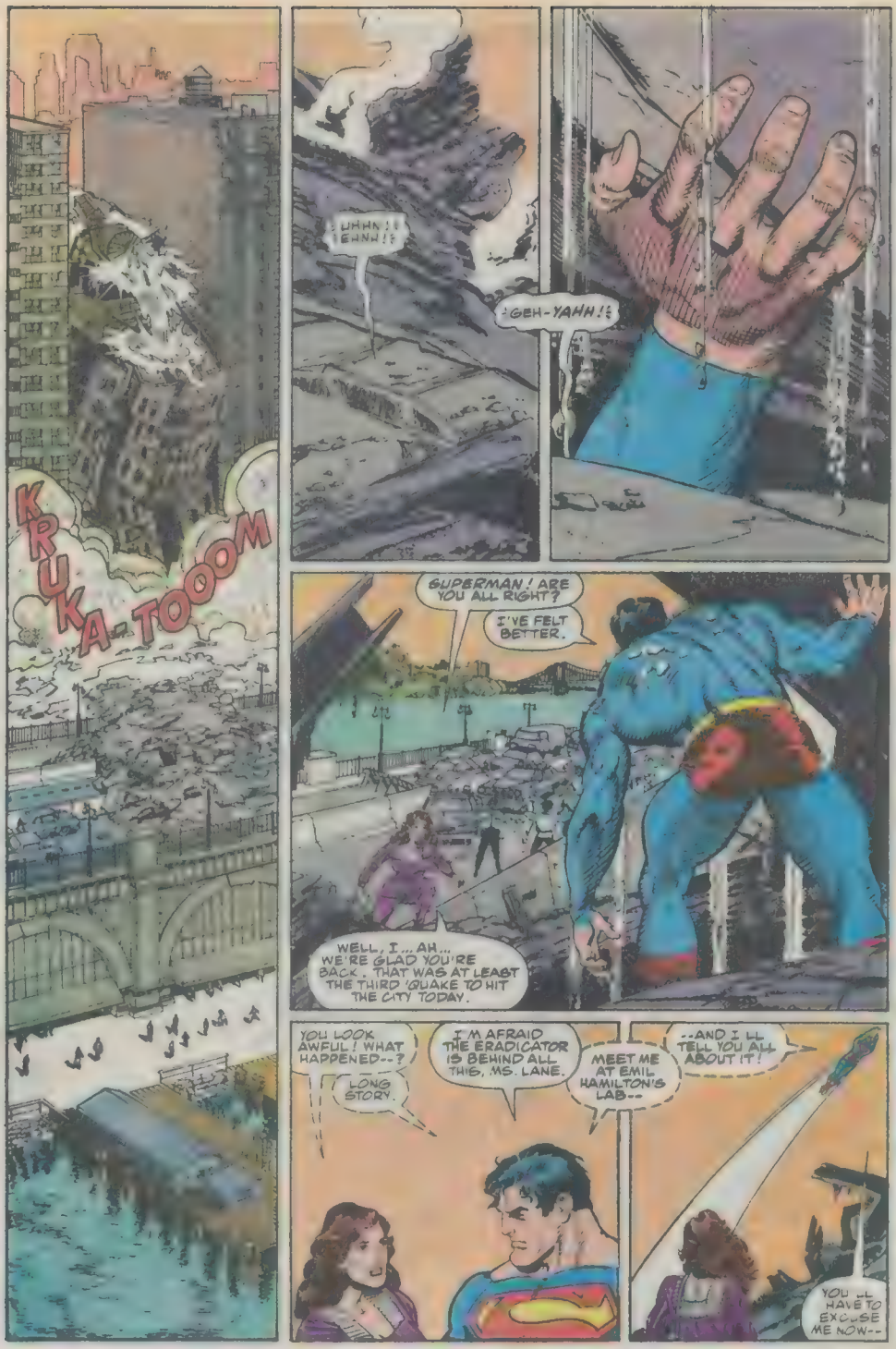
"THEY SAID THAT THEY'D SEEN IT DESTROYED WHEN HE TOOK THEM DOWN TO ANTARCTICA--*
"--TO SOME STRANGE FORTRESS BURIED BENEATH THE ICE!"
KR-KR-KERACK
* IN ISSUE #652.
CHOOOM!
YOU HAVE TRESPASSED ON MY FORTRESS, EARTHLING!
I CONSTRUCTED THIS BASTION TO COMMEMORATE THE OLD KRYPTON AND TO FOUND THE NEW!
IT WAS NOT MEANT AS AN AMUSEMENT CENTER FOR INFERIOR BEINGS!
YE GODS, NOW WHAT SHALL I DO?
STEADY, OLD SON! THIS SUIT WAS BUILT FOR COMBAT--IT MUST HAVE BUILT-IN ORDNANCE!
EVERYTHING IS THOUGHT-ACTIVATED. IF I THINK HARD ENOUGH, IT SHOULD RESPOND--!
ZZAM!

REMARKABLE. I WOULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT THE HUMAN MIND ADVANCED ENOUGH TO TRIGGER A WAR-SUIT'S ARMAMENT.
SKRAAK
YOU ARE INDEED RESOURCEFUL, EARTHLING--BUT YOUR EFFORTS ARE FOREDOOMED TO FAILURE.
EVEN KRYPTONIAN WEAPONRY IS USELESS AGAINST ME
I AM THE ERADICATOR...
I WAS CREATED TO BE KRYPTON'S ULTIMATE WEAPON!
GADFRY!
CLEARLY, MY ONLY HOPE--
--LIES IN FLIGHT!
WHAT--?!
HALT!
I EXERCISE CONTROL HERE!
H-HE'S FROZEN ALL SYSTEMS... I'M TRAPPED INSIDE THIS THING... UNLESS...

THANK HEAVENS, THE EMERGENCY RELEASE STILL FUNCTIONED! NOW, IF I CAN JUST ESCAPE HIS NOTICE--!
TAG.
TAG.
TAG.
OH, NO.
TAG, YOU'RE IT.
TAG, YOU'RE IT
FWIP!
NO! STOP!
WE'RE NOT PLAYING TAG ANY-MORE
GAME'S OVER!
CORRECT. THIS GAME IS MOST DEFINITELY OVER.
IT IS AS I SAID--I EXERCISE CONTROL HERE. WHILE YOU...
...YOU ARE THE HUMAN THAT KAL-EL DESIGNATED "PROFESSOR HAMILTON." I REMEMBER YOU...
BEFORE I ASSUMED THIS FORM, YOU ATTEMPTED TO EXAMINE ME.* I WAS ABLE TO DEFY YOUR ANALYSIS--
--BUT I DOUBT THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DEFY MINE!
"FRANKLY, IT DOESN'T SOUND GREAT..."
* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #459.

...THERE WAS A LOT OF STATIC ON THE TAPE, BUT I THINK I HEARD A TUG'S HORN IN THE BACKGROUND. THAT SAYS WATERFRONT.
IF ADAM TOOK THE SUBWAY BACK FROM BAKERLINE -- AND GOT ON THE LOCAL BY MISTAKE -- HE MIGHT'VE GOTTEN OFF TWO STOPS EARLY.
...WHICH WOULD'VE PUT HIM OUT AT THE HOB'S RIVER STATION
AND THAT'S...NOT GOOD?
THAT'S THE STOP NEAREST SUICIDE SLUM.
WHAT?! THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE WORST NEIGHBORHOOD IN THE CITY! AND MY ADAM IS THERE?!
I'M COMING WITH YOU!
CAT...DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT YOU'RE UP TO JUMPING ACROSS ROOFTOPS AND SCALING FENCES WITH ME?
I... WELL... NO.
THEN STAY BY THE PHONE. I'LL CHECK IN EVERY 20 MINUTES
TRY NOT TO WORRY. I GREW UP IN SUICIDE SLUM... I KNOW THE AREA... I'LL FIND HIM
YOU'D BETTER, MR. GANGBUSTER. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HIM...
WHAT?
OH, DEAR GOD, NO! NOT ANOTHER--
RRUMMM

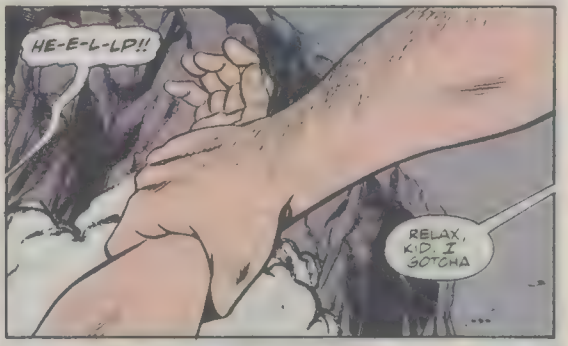
"--EARTHQUAKE!"
GOOD LORD!
...LOOKS LIKE I MADE IT BACK TO METROPOLIS NONE TOO SOON!
THE 'QUAKE'S TOO MUCH FOR THAT OLD, ABANDONED TENEMENT! WHEN THOSE STRUCTURAL POSTS GO--
--THE WHOLE BUILDING WILL COLLAPSE ONTO THE PROMENADE AND SPILL OVER ONTO RIVERSIDE PARKWAY!
CLEAR THE AREA!! CALL 9-1-1!!
THEY'LL NEVER GET CLEAR IN TIME...
...UNLESS I CAN SLOW THIS THING DOWN
GAAAGH!
WEIGHT...IS INCREDIBLE.
THE PEOPLE ARE ALMOST CLEAR.
HOLD TOGETHER... JUST A LITTLE... LONGER, DAMN YOU...
...JUST A LITTLE... LONG:


KRUKA-TOOOM
UHHH!!
EHNN!!
GEH-YAHH!!
SUPERMAN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'VE FELT BETTER.
WELL, I... AH... WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE BACK. THAT WAS AT LEAST THE THIRD 'QUAKE TO HIT THE CITY TODAY.
YOU LOOK AWFUL! WHAT HAPPENED--?
LONG STORY.
I'M AFRAID THE ERADICATOR IS BEHIND ALL THIS, MS. LANE.
MEET ME AT EMIL HAMILTON'S LAB--
--AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME NOW--

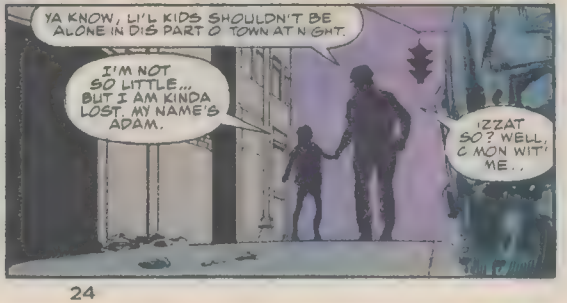
"--I SEE A LOT MORE WORK IN DEMAND OF MY ATTENTION!"
A-ARE YOU SURE, MR. SUPERMAN?
I'M SURE, MA'AM... CLIMB ABOARD! PLENTY OF ROOM FOR ONE MORE!
THESE OLD ROW HOMES ARE PROBABLY BEYOND REPAIR BUT I'D BETTER SHORE THEM UP--
...OR THE BUILDING INSPECTORS WON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO CHECK.
OH, YEAH! GO TO T SUPERMAN!
HE MUST'VE BEEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD! I HAD MY SIGNAL WATCH ON SO LONG THE BATTERIES RAN DOWN!
AT LEAST HE FINALLY MADE IT. AND I GOT SOME GREAT SHOTS.
WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE MONEY OFF OTHER PEOPLE'S MISERY..
...BUT AFTER BANKROLLING MY NEW APARTMENT, AND THEN GETTING FIRED FROM THE PLANET, I'M JUST ABOUT TAPPED OUT.
I REALLY NEED THE CASH I CAN GET FROM FREELANCING THIS FILM--!
MY FILM!!
-HEY, WHA--? AFTERSHOCK!
THERE GOES NEXT MONTH'S RENT, OLSEN.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...

...WHERE DID I GO WRONG?
I THOUGHT METROPOLIS'S STREETS WERE S'POSED TO BE EASY TO FOLLOW! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH WAY I'M GOIN'...
...AN' EACH STREET SEEMS CREEP ER THAN THE LAST!
WHA--?
RRUMMBB

EEYOW!

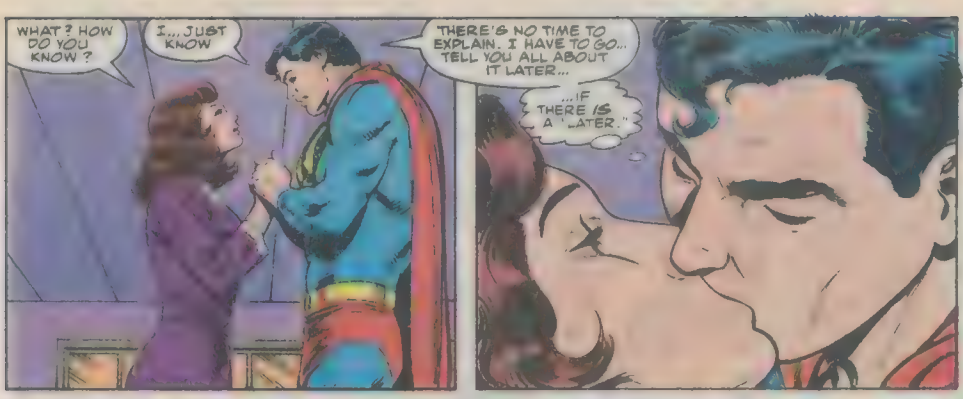

HE-E-L-LP!!
RELAX, KID. I GOTCHA

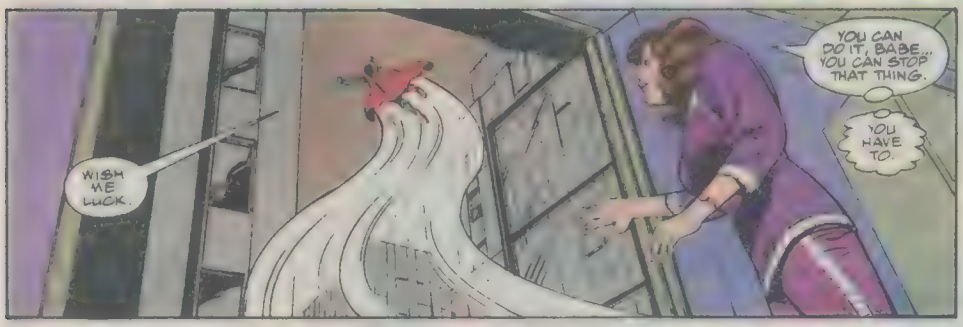
TH-THANKS, MISTER! HEY, I KNOW YOU-- YOU'RE THAT BIPPO GUY WHO WON THE LOTTERY!
DAT'S BIBBO! YA SEEN MY PITCHER, HUH?

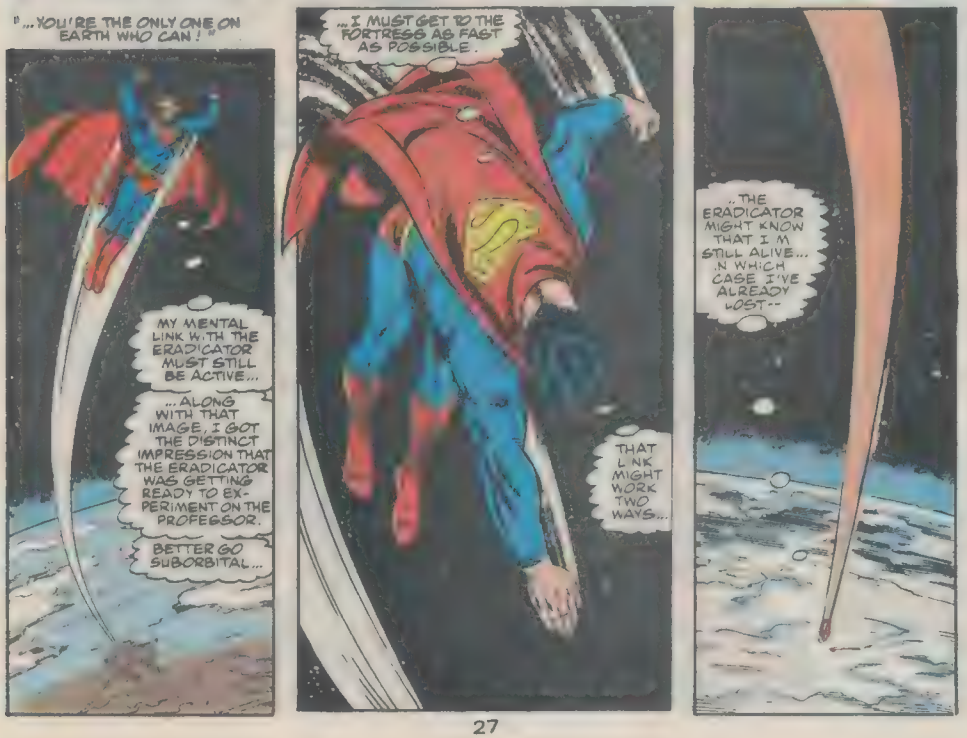

YA KNOW, LI'L KIDS SHOULDN'T BE ALONE IN DIS PART O' TOWN AT NIGHT.
I'M NOT SO LITTLE... BUT I AM KINDA LOST. MY NAME'S ADAM.
IZZAT SO? WELL, C'MON WIT' ME..

"... I'LL TAKE YA WHERE YOU'LL BE SAFE."
HELLO?
IN HERE, LOIS.
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG... GETTING ACROSS TOWN IS A REAL ADVENTURE TONIGHT
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE, I JUST GOT HERE A COUPLE OF MINUTES AGO MYSELF
UH... ARE WE ALONE?
EH? OH YES, PROFESSOR HAM-TON S.N ANTARCTICA STUDYING MR. Z'S GEMSTONE FOR ME
REALLY?
IT SEEMS THAT I LEARN A LITTLE MORE ABOUT YOUR OTHER CAREER EVERY DAY
YOU STORE EXTRA CAPES HERE?
A FEW YES
THERE, NOW YOUR OUTFIT LOOKS COMPLETE.
WHY THANK YOU, MS. LANE.
YOU'RE VERY WELCOME, MR KENT.
YOUR BURNS ARE ALREADY STARTING TO FADE
I HEAL FAST, FORTUNATELY.
COFFEE?
I'D LOVE SOME.
I WAS JUST ACCESSING HAM'S DATA ON THE ERADICATOR...
... HIT THE "ENTER" SWITCH AND WE'LL REVIEW WHAT HE HAS ON FILE
GOOD, I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS THING. YOU TOLD ME THAT IT WAS ORIGINALLY SOME LOST KRYPTONIAN ARTIFACT--?

UH-HUH. THAT WAS IT... NOT MUCH BIGGER THAN A MILK BOTTLE. IT WAS DESIGNED BY ONE OF MY ANCESTORS 200,000 YEARS AGO... PART WEAPON, PART SUPER-COMPUTER...
...AND ALL DEDICATED TO PRESERVING KRYPTON. ASIDE FROM THE VEHICLE WHICH BROUGHT ME TO EARTH, I WAS THE ONLY THING TO SURVIVE KRYPTON'S DESTRUCTION.
AFTER I BROUGHT THIS LEGACY BACK FROM SPACE, IT TRIED TO REMAKE EARTH INTO KRYPTON--AND ME INTO THE "IDEAL" KRYPTONIAN.
I FINALLY OVERCAME IT, SMASHED IT AND THREW IT INTO THE SUN. I THOUGHT THAT WAS THE END OF IT
...BUT SOMEHOW, ITS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MERGED WITH THE SUN'S ENERGIES EVENTUALLY, IT WAS ABLE TO RECREATE ITSELF AS THAT "KRYPTON MAN."
WEIRD! AND IT'S RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CRAZY WEATHER ... AND THE QUAKES?
I'M AFRAID SO. IT CAN CAUSE INCREDIBLE GEOPHYSICAL UPHEAVAL... IT'S ALREADY TRIGGERED CHANGES IN THE SUN'S CORE.
I HAVE TO FIND IT AND PUT AN END TO IT...
...AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL NEED...HAMILTON'S...HELP--?
OH...MY...GOD!
CLARK, WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?!
HAMILTON! THE ERADICATOR HAS HIM!
KRESH


WHAT? HOW DO YOU KNOW?
I... JUST KNOW
THERE'S NO TIME TO EXPLAIN. I HAVE TO GO.. TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT LATER...
...IF THERE IS A "LATER."


WISH ME LUCK.
YOU CAN DO IT, BABE.. YOU CAN STOP THAT THING.
YOU HAVE TO.

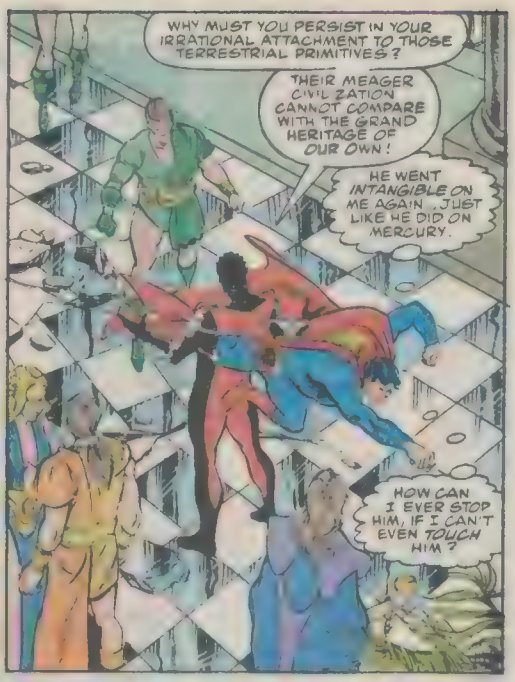

"...YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE ON EARTH WHO CAN!"
MY MENTAL LINK WITH THE ERADICATOR MUST STILL BE ACTIVE...
...ALONG WITH THAT IMAGE, I GOT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT THE ERADICATOR WAS GETTING READY TO EXPERIMENT ON THE PROFESSOR.
BETTER GO SUBORBITAL...
...I MUST GET TO THE FORTRESS AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.
THAT LINK MIGHT WORK TWO WAYS...
..THE ERADICATOR MIGHT KNOW THAT I'M STILL ALIVE... IN WHICH CASE I'VE ALREADY LOST--

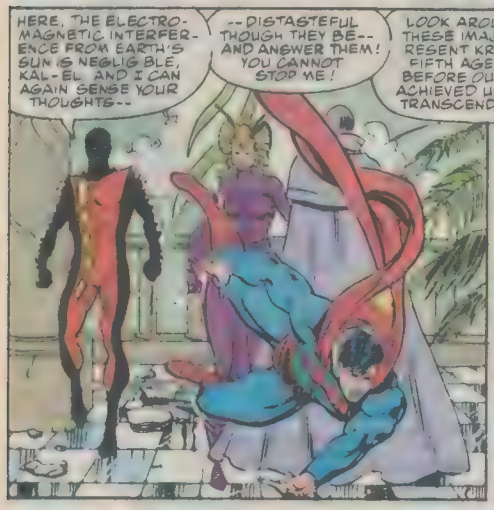
--THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE.
KRA-THOOM!
SUPERMAN! THANK HEAVENS!
YOU ARE REMARKABLE, KAL-EL, EVEN FOR A SON OF KRYPTON. YOUR RESILIENCE DOES THE RACE PROUD
WHY WOULD YOU NOT ACCEPT YOUR DESTINY AND LEAD THESE HUMANS INTO THE LIGHT OF THE KRYPTONIAN WAY?
IS THIS THE KRYPTONIAN WAY... TREATING ANOTHER SENTIENT BEING AS A GUINEA PIG?
YOUR STARE BETRAYS YOU, KAL-EL. BUT YOUR HEAT VISION CANNOT HARM ME.
YOU'RE NOT MY TARGET.
NO?
ZZAKT
WHOA-OA-OOP!
ZZAKT
ZZAKT

HAMILTON'S NOT PART OF THIS. ANY DISAGREEMENTS YOU'LL HAVE, YOU'LL HAVE WITH ME!
INDEED... AND I HAVE MANY
YOU ARE TRESPASSING, KAL-EL...
ARROGANT ★@#%!!
...I BUILT THIS FORTRESS--IT IS MINE!
I THOUGHT YOU BUILT THIS PLACE FOR ME...TO COMMEMORATE MY HALLOWED KRYPTONIAN HERITAGE.
THUUK
MY TOLERANCE OF YOUR PRESENCE HAS ENDED, EARTHLING!
NO!! YOU'LL NOT HARM ANOTHER HUMAN BEING!
YOU HAVE BETRAYED--!
WHAT?! HAMILTON, YOU THREW--?
KOOM
EGADS! WHAT HAVE I DONE?

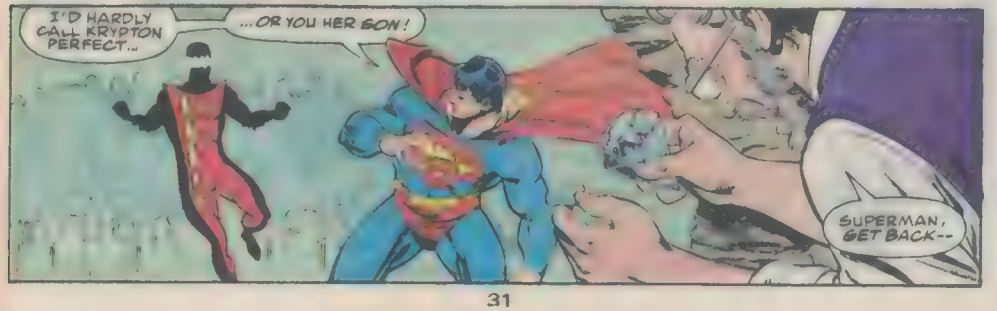
WHAT POSSESSED ME TO THROW THAT ROCK?
WHAT DID I THINK I'D ACCOMPLISH? ALL I'VE DONE --
--IS TURN A TESTY SITUATION INTO A FULL-FLEDGED BATTLE!
BTOK
THINK, EMIL, THERE MUST BE SOMETHING YOU CAN DO TO HELP SUPERMAN -- BUT WHAT? I HAVE NOTHING THAT CAN STOP THE ERADICATOR...
...OR DO I?
YOU SHOULD HAVE SURRENDERED TO THE SOLAR FIRES, KAL-EL!
NOW YOU MUST FACE DEFEAT AMONGST THESE HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGES OF OUR WORLD'S PAST GLORIES.
I... ALMOST REGRET THIS.
SAVE YOUR PITY FOR YOURSELF-- I WON'T GIVE UP EASILY!
YOU'VE GIVEN ME TOO MUCH TO FIGHT FOR!
THOOOOOM!

THERE'S A WHOLE WORLD DEPENDING ON ME!
YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT? YOU FINALLY ACCEPT THE WAYS OF KRYPTON?
KRYPTON IS DEAD! IT'S EARTH THAT MATTERS--!


WHY MUST YOU PERSIST IN YOUR IRRATIONAL ATTACHMENT TO THOSE TERRESTRIAL PRIMITIVES?
THEIR MEAGER CIVILIZATION CANNOT COMPARE WITH THE GRAND HERITAGE OF OUR OWN!
HE WENT INTANGIBLE ON ME AGAIN, JUST LIKE HE DID ON MERCURY.
HOW CAN I EVER STOP HIM, IF I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH HIM?


HERE, THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC INTERFERENCE FROM EARTH'S SUN IS NEGLIGIBLE, KAL-EL AND I CAN AGAIN SENSE YOUR THOUGHTS--
--DISTASTEFUL THOUGH THEY BE-- AND ANSWER THEM! YOU CANNOT STOP ME!
LOOK AROUND US. THESE IMAGES REPRESENT KRYPTON'S FIFTH AGE--LONG BEFORE OUR WORLD ACHIEVED ULTIMATE TRANSCENDENCE.

AND YET THAT PAST KRYPTON WAS STILL ADVANCED FAR BEYOND TODAY'S EARTH
AS THE LAST SONS OF KRYPTON IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO LEAD THIS WORLD INTO THE LIGHT OF PERFECTION.

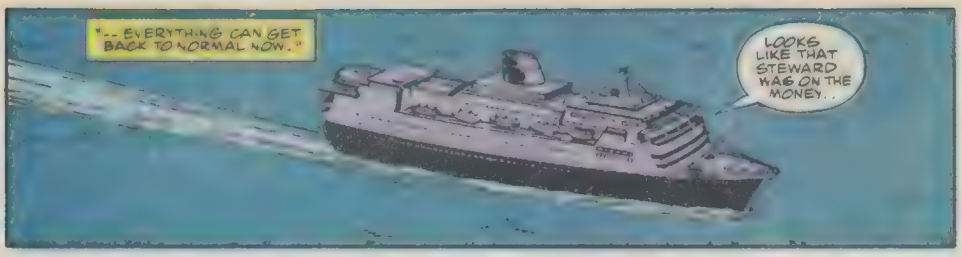

I'D HARDLY CALL KRYPTON PERFECT..
...OR YOU HER SON!
SUPERMAN, GET BACK--

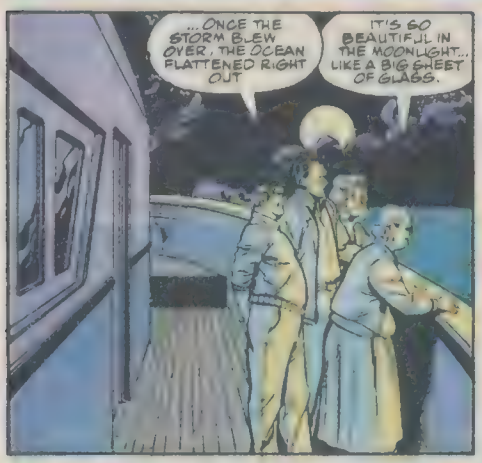
--LET ME SHOW THE ERADICATOR WHAT AN EARTH-MAN CAN DO!
CHINK
PROFESSOR, NO!
NOT Z'S GEMSTONE! IT CAN TRAP YOU--!
THAT'S A SACRIFICE I'LL RISK, IF IT'LL STOP THIS MONSTER!
BESIDES, IT'S TOO LATE NOW-- THE FINAL PIECE IS IN PLACE!
DROP IT, HAM, AND I'LL TRY-Y-Y-Y-Y-;
WHAT--?
TOO LATE... TOO LA-A-A-A-;
FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES, THE MYSTERIOUS MR. Z USED THIS GEM AS A REPOSITORY FOR THE SOULS OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO INTRIGUED HIM.
BUT TONIGHT, ONLY TWO FIGURES TUMBLE LIFELESSLY TO THE FLOOR.
THE THIRD VANISHES COMPLETELY INTO THE JEWEL'S ELDRITCH GLARE.
WHAT MADNESS IS THIS

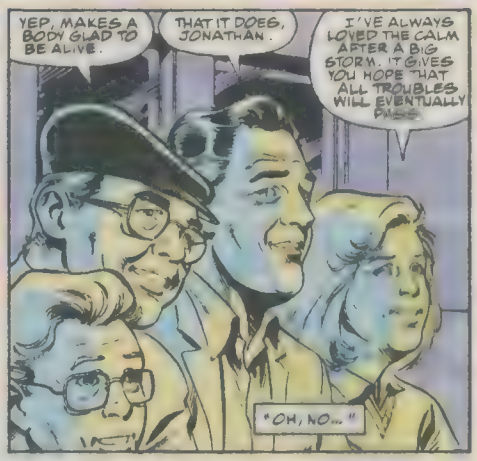
...WHERE ARE WE? WHAT... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME?!
YOU'VE BEEN PULLED ALONG WITH US INTO A MICRO-DIMENSIONAL REGION WITHIN A CRYSTALLINE CONTAINMENT VESSEL... A LITTLE SOMETHING ONE OF US "PRIMITIVES" USED FOR COLLECTING SOULS!
BUT IT SPONGES UP SELF-IMPORTANT ENERGY-BEINGS, TOO.
PROFESSOR, YOU FIGURED OUT HOW MR. Z'S SOUL-CATCHER WORKS?
UH... NOT EXACTLY, SUPERMAN. BUT SINCE THE GEM SEEMED TO FUNCTION AS A CAPACITOR--
--I THOUGHT IT MIGHT SUCK UP THE ERADICATOR'S WILD ENERGIES! LOOKS LIKE MY THEORY WAS RIGHT!
BUT WHY IS MY SUBSTANCE BREAKING UP?
OH, SHUT UP!
SUPERMAN, GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT.
IT WORKED, PROFESSOR! I FELT THAT... AND SO DID THE ERADICATOR!
YES, IN THIS STATE WE'RE ALL BASICALLY ENERGY.
BUT, WHEREAS WE ARE KEPT INTACT BY OUR PERSONALITIES, THE ERADICATOR HAS ONLY ITS PROGRAMMING TO HOLD IT TOGETHER--

--AND SOMETHING ABOUT THE GEM'S STRUCTURE APPEARS TO BE MAKING THAT PROGRAMMING BREAK UP!
WELL, WHAT SAY WE GIVE IT A HAND?
NO- KAL-EL- ;SQWRK; YOU- MUST- NOT ;SQWRK;
KRYPTON- MUST- ENDURE ;SQWRK; KRYPTON- MUST-
ENOUGH! I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU!
YOU'VE DISRUPTED A LIVING WORLD-- MY WORLD-- TRYING TO RECREATE A DEAD PLANET.
YOUR LOGIC WAS FAULTY, ERADICATOR! YOU SOUGHT TO PRESERVE KRYPTON'S HERITAGE, BUT I AM ALL THAT IS LEFT OF IT!
I AM KRYPTON'S LAST TRUE SON.
...MY LIFE IS ITS FINAL CHAPTER!
ERROR
PROFESSOR? WHAT IS THIS?
I'M NOT CERTAIN, BUT I'D SAY YOU ERASED ITS PROGRAM.
ΒΔ↑∇
∇∇Ø!!
DYSFUNCTION
ITS ENERGIES ARE DISPERSING--
REGRET- REGRET- REGRET-

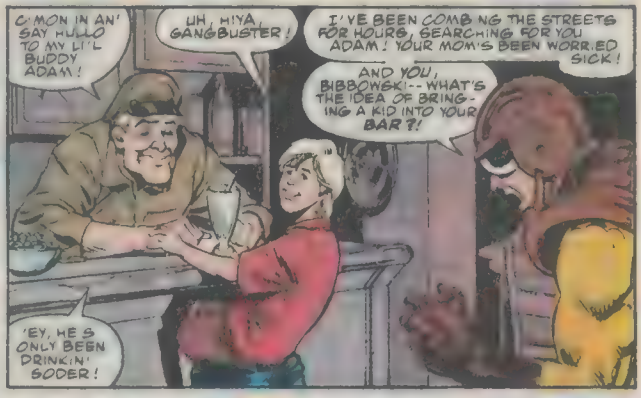
"...AND IF THE GEM IS AS ADVERSE TO CONTAINING THAT MUCH FREE ENERGY--
"--AS YOU TOLD ME IT WAS TO CONTAINING YOUR ALIEN LIFEFORCE--
"--THEN BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU, I CAN SEE THE CRYSTAL STAYING INTACT MUCH LONGER."
SCREE
KIISH!
PROFESSOR... IT WORKED...
...WE'RE FREE! CAN YOU STILL HEAR ME? WE'RE--
--ALIVE AND FREE! SOME RIDE, THOUGH, EH?
PROFESSOR?
DEAR GOD, HIS HEART'S NOT BEATING!
COME ON, HAM, DON'T CHECK OUT ON ME NOW!
EHH? WH-WHAT?
S-SUPERMAN.. I-IS IT ALL OVER?
I HOPE SO, PROFESSOR, WITH A LITTLE LUCK--


"... EVERYTHING CAN GET BACK TO NORMAL NOW."
LOOKS LIKE THAT STEWARD WAS ON THE MONEY..


... ONCE THE STORM BLEW OVER, THE OCEAN FLATTENED RIGHT OUT
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL IN THE MOONLIGHT... LIKE A BIG SHEET OF GLASS.


YEP, MAKES A BODY GLAD TO BE ALIVE.
THAT IT DOES, JONATHAN.
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE CALM AFTER A BIG STORM. IT GIVES YOU HOPE THAT ALL TROUBLES WILL EVENTUALLY PASS.
"OH, NO..."

... I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
'EY GANGBUSTER, HOWZIT GOIN'?


C'MON IN AN' SAY HULLO TO MY LI'L BUDDY ADAM!
UH, HI'YA, GANGBUSTER!
I'VE BEEN COMB NG THE STREETS FOR HOURS, SEARCHING FOR YOU ADAM! YOUR MOM'S BEEN WORR ED SICK!
AND YOU, BIBBOWSKI -- WHAT'S THE IDEA OF BRING- ING A KID INTO YOUR BAR?!
'EY, HE S ONLY BEEN DRINKIN' SODER!

'SIDES, MY ACE O' CLUBS IS 'WAY NICER THAN THE BAR I HUNG OUT AT WHEN I WAS HIS AGE!
GUESS I GOTTA BE GOIN', UNCLE BIBBO! THANKS!
SURE, KID...

TAKE EASY.
...E-A-S-Y.. A LITTLE MORE TO THE LEFT.
THERE! THAT'S IT--
--PERFECT! OLD ABE LOOKS AS GOOD AS NEW!
HE WILL BE, ONCE THE EPOXY SETS.
THANKS SUPERMAN! WE NEVER WOULD'VE GOTTEN THINGS PATCHED UP SO FAST WITHOUT YOUR HELP!
WELL, THE EARTHQUAKE THAT DAMAGED LINCOLN'S STATUE WAS THE ERADICATOR'S DOING...
...IT WAS ONLY RIGHT THAT I LENT A HAND. THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL OF IT.
FACE IT, CLARK, SUPERMAN IS BIG NEWS-- ALWAYS HAS BEEN, ALWAYS WILL BE.
I KNEW THAT FROM THE MOMENT I FIRST LAID EYES ON HIM.
YES, WELL, THE ERADICATOR WOULD NEVER HAVE CAUSED ALL THAT MAYHEM, IF I HADN'T BROUGHT IT BACK TO EARTH IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WILL YOU STOP THAT?
YOU CAN'T ANTICIPATE EVERYTHING! LOOK, YOU DO YOUR BEST TO MAKE THINGS BETTER, WHICH IS A DARN SIGHT MORE THAN A LOT OF MEN DO!
I SUPPOSE... BUT THERE'RE ALWAYS PLENTY OF JOBS FOR SUPERMAN!
I KNOW, BABE... I KNOW. IT'S A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE
I'M A REAL HARD WORKER SR.

...AND I'VE BEEN A NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER FOR OVER THREE YEARS NOW.
UH-HUH. I'M FAMILIAR WITH YOUR WORK, OLSEN. NICE STUFF...
BUT WE USE MAINLY STOCK SHOTS IN THE WHISPER. I DON'T REALLY NEED A FULL-TIME PHOTOG UNLESS YOU'RE A DECENT RETOUCH MAN.
WE DO A LOT OF PHOTO RETOUCHING AT THIS PAPER.
GOT ANY EXPERIENCE AT THAT?
WHISPER
I WAS LOVE-SLAVE TO SPACE ALIEN ELVIS CLONE!
MUTANTS
NOT MUCH, SIR.
'SCUSE ME, MR. ROBBINS--
--BUT THE PASTE-UP FOR THAT NEW LUTHOR SIGHTING STORY IS HERE FOR YOUR APPROVAL!
LUTHOR SIGHTING? LEX LUTHOR? BUT HE'S DEAD!
HEH-HEH NOT AS FAR AS THIS PAPER'S CONCERNED!
NATIONAL WHISPER
PEANUT BUTTER CURE FOR CANCER
STILL ONLY 49¢
LUTHOR ALIVE
"DEAD" TYCOON SEEN CHOWING DOWN AT FAST FOOD JOINT
NEXT ISSUE: The GHOST of LUTHOR!

MY NAME'S WALLY WEST, BUT PEOPLE CALL ME FLASH. THEY SAY I'M THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE. MAYBE. BUT WHAT I'M PROUDEST OF IS MY GIFT FOR FRIENDSHIP..

CENTRAL CITY LOOKS SO CALM FROM UP HERE. YOU CAN'T EVEN TELL WHERE THE DAMAGE WAS...

YEP. THE GOVERNMENT CLEANED IT UP WITHOUT A WHIMPER. I LIKE BEING AN IRS AGENT.

FAST FRIENDS

Presented by

·LOEBS·
·LA ROCQUE·
·MARZAN·
·WHITMORE·
·HARKINS·
·AUGUSTYN·

THANKS TO THE GREAT CARLINI.

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I WONDER IF I COULD *NAIL* THE *JOKER* ON AN *INCOME TAX EVASION* RAP? NOBODY'S *TRIED* THAT!

GEE, WALLY... I DON'T THINK THE JOKER *REPORTS*.

HE JUST *STEALS* MONEY TO HAVE SOMETHING TO STEAL...

THAT'S RIGHT. WHEN YOU WERE ON THE *OTHER SIDE* OF THE LAW, YOU KNEW HIM, RIGHT?

I *MET* HIM. YOU DON'T REALLY GET TO *KNOW* GUYS LIKE HIM OR *ABRA-KADABRA*...

THEY'LL *KILL* YOU JUST TO MAKE A *POINT*.!

WE DIDN'T ALL LIVE IN A *CLUBHOUSE OF EVIL*.!

JUST WONDERING... YOU'VE HEARD THE *RUMORS*, AFTER ALL. HOW, MAYBE, HE'S GAY? WHAT DID HE SEEM LIKE TO YOU?

THE JOKER... GAY?

LIKE I SAID, WE DIDN'T EXCHANGE *SECRETS*, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY REASON TO BELIEVE...

SURE, BUT GUYS LIKE THAT, YOU CAN *ALWAYS* TELL... THERE ARE SIGNALS...

HE *KILLS* PEOPLE, WALLY. HE'S A *SADIST* AND A PSYCHOPATH...

NEW TAX

...I DOUBT HE HAS REAL *HUMAN* FEELINGS OF *ANY* KIND... HE'S *NOT* GAY, WALLY.

IN FACT, I CAN'T THINK OF ANY SUPER-VILLAIN WHO IS...

NOT ONE...?

WELL, EXCEPT *ME*, OF COURSE.

BUT YOU KNEW THAT, RIGHT ?

ME ? OH, SURE...

I MEAN, HOW COULD I NOT KNOW SOMETHING AS... AS...

AND IT DOESN'T... *BOTHER* YOU ?

ME ? GOSH, NO !

OOPS, LOOK AT THE TIME... !

GOT AN *APPOINTMENT*, PIPER. GOTTA RUN.

RIGHT. GLAD IT DIDN'T BOTHER YOU.

IDIOT!

IDIOT!

IDIOT!

CENTRAL BULLETIN
MADMAN PIPER
NEWS

HOW COULD I *NOT* HAVE NOTICED?

I JUST *HAD* TO GET OUT OF THERE... AND GIVE MYSELF *TIME* TO THINK.

FORTUNATELY, I WAS *SLICK* ENOUGH SO THAT PIPER NEVER *NOTICED!*

AND I REALLY *DID* HAVE AN APPOINTMENT.

HEY, IT'S NOT A *BIRD* OR A *PLANE*... COULD IT BE... ?

I LEFT MY *SPEEDING BULLET* AT HOME.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MR. S.!

YOU TOO. I... NEW *THREADS*? PRETTY SHARP.!

THANKS. I GOT TIRED OF HAVING THE OLD ONES *SHREDDED*.

YOU SOUNDED PRETTY *SEVERE* ON THE PHONE. THIS ISN'T JUST ANOTHER *RACE*, IS IT?

I WISH IT *WAS*...

IT'S ABOUT A *FRIEND* OF MINE, JIMMY OLSEN...

HE WAS *FIRED* ABOUT A WEEK AGO, AND HE WAS FEELING PRETTY DESPERATE...

'NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL', EH? I'LL SHOW 'EM!

THE GUY YOU WANT CALLS HIMSELF TH' *SILVER SQUID*... AN HE'S *CONNECTED*. HIGH UP...!

"JIMMY WAS TRYING TO GET A SCOOP ON A LOCAL META-HUMAN BANK ROBBER..."

"HE FIGURED ONE GREAT PHOTO AND HE'D GET HIS JOB BACK..."

"WELL, HE FOUND THE SUSPECT'S APARTMENT, BUT UNFORTUNATELY..."

"HE ALSO FOUND THE SUSPECT!"

SNAARKK

A SNOOP! WHO SENT YOU...? THE ALGERIANS? THE MOSSAD? THE AGENCY? WHO...?

ZEE-ZEE-ZEE

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

"OF COURSE, JIMMY SIGNALED ME..."

"BUT THERE WAS CRAZINESS IN THE AIR..."

YOU CAME! THE SPOOK PATROL THINKS YOU CAN STOP ME?

THEY'RE WRONG!!

uhhhh...

SKKARKK

"HE HURT ME! HURT ME WITH THE STRONGEST FORCE I'VE BEEN HIT WITH IN YEARS!"

BRING ME *ESQUELITO* IN 24 HOURS, OR THE KID'S *TOAST.*

JUST... DON'T *HURT* HIM...

THE NEXT SECOND THEY BOTH *VANISHED* IN A BURST OF *ELECTROMAGNETIC FIRE!*

WHO IS THIS *ESQUELITO?*

HECTOR ESQUELITO, THE DICTATOR OF *SAN* FELIPE... *DEAD* FOR 2 YEARS.

NEITHER *OUR* GOVERNMENT NOR *THEIRS* WILL TELL ME *ANYTHING...*

I NEED SOMEONE BRAVE AND *FAST* TO DO SOME POKING AROUND...

YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS *WANTED* A VACATION IN SAN FELIPE!

THEN HE THREW HIMSELF UP INTO THE AIR AND WAS GONE.!

I'LL NEVER GET TIRED OF SEEING HIM DO THAT.

HE SAID THAT SAN FELIPE WAS A SMALL ISLAND OFF THE COAST OF CHILE. SO I WENT HOME TO PACK A 20-POUND LUNCH AND AN ATLAS...

AND HE HEADED OFF TO LANGLEY, VIRGINIA.

AND SO YOU'RE SAYING THE SILVER SQUID WASN'T A CIA OPERATIVE IN SAN FELIPE

I'M SAYING THE WHOLE SAN FELIPE OPERATION IS CLASSIFIED. WITH A CAPITAL 'C'!

BUT IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT HECTOR ESQUELITO WAS ON THE AGENCY PAYROLL, AND WHEN HE WAS OVERTHROWN...

MR. KENT, IT'S NOT COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN THIS ROOM.

WHY NOT LEAVE THE DEAD PAST DEAD? THE WHOLE STORY IS IN THERE SOMEPLACE ON MICROFILM...

SO IF YOU HAPPEN TO CARRY AROUND A MICROSCOPE THAT CAN SEE THROUGH WALLS, YOU'RE IN LUCK. OTHERWISE...

THANK YOU. YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL.

ACCORDING TO THE PAPERS, SAN FELIPE HAD A *SOCIALIST* GOVERNMENT FOR A WHILE...

THEN ESQUELITO SET UP HIS *OWN* GOVERNMENT AND STARTED MAKING PEOPLE *DISAPPEAR*...

UNTIL HE WAS OVERTHROWN IN A DEMOCRATIC *COUP*...

MAKING SAN FELIPE *SAFE* FOR THE *TOURIST TRADE*...

YIPE! I'M GONNA *LIKE* SAN FELIPE!

UNITED STATES EMBASSY

MAYBE I CAN GRAB SOME *BEACH TIME* LATER ON...

MADAME AMBASSADORE, I'M HERE AS PART OF A JOINT JLE-IRS PROBE INTO *DRUG TRADE* LINKAGES...

ECURITY CHECK SE SUBMIT S FOR ION

I SEE, MR...UM, *WEST*...

THE SITUATION HERE IN SAN FELIPE IS EXTREMELY *DELICATE*...

FLASH

BUT IF YOU COME BACK LATER THIS AFTERNOON...

YOU BET.

THAT BUTTON, I WONDER *WHO* SHE WAS SIGNALING...?

THAT GUY, IN THE "I'M A *TOURIST*" COAT, JUST POPPED OUT OF THE BACK OF THE EMBASSY.

I WONDER *WHERE* HE'S GOING?

SPARE CHANGE, SEÑOR?

SPARE CHANGE?

JUST A SEC, KIDS. LESSEE, WAS THAT 70 PESOS IN A DOLLAR...?

REAL AMERICAN WATCHES, SEÑOR!

EVERYBODY'S PRETTY *POOR* TO BE LIVING IN AN ISLAND *PARADISE!*

WHOOPS! AND THERE GOES MY *BUDDY!*

MM417

BAD GIRL

THING IS... I *REALLY* WANT TO KNOW WHERE HE LANDS!

SEÑOR! IS THERE ANYTHING OUT IN THAT DIRECTION?

NO. *NOTHING.*

P 85.00
P100.00
P100.00

NOTHING *GOOD*, THAT IS. OUT THERE IS THE ISLAND WHERE *EL PRESIDENTE* WOULD KEEP HIS *PRISONERS.*

INTERESTING.

SIXTY-TWO TACOS SHOULD GET ME TO THIS ISLAND... WHEREVER IT IS!

I WONDER IF THERE'S SOME WAY I CAN MAKE ALL THIS DEDUCTIBLE?

SUPERMAN NEVER SEEMS TO WORRY ABOUT...

YOW! SHARKS! THIS WHOLE STRETCH IS SWARMING WITH THEM.

AND METAL NETS... JUST UNDER THE WATER!

ELECTRIFIED! LUCKY I'M GOING TOO FAST TO GET ZAPPED!

KZZZZZLLE

YIPPEEE! THAT AVOIDS THE *REST* OF THE *WIRES!*

NOW ALL I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IS...

SPLISH

... *MINES!* LOTS AND LOTS OF *MINES!*

GASP... FINALLY, THE *ISLAND!*

WHICH, OF COURSE, IS *SURROUNDED* BY *BARBED WIRE...*

AND MORE *MINES!* SOMEBODY IS *WAY SERIOUS* ABOUT THIS!

BWOOM BWOOM BWOOM

AND HERE COME THE TROOPS!

AT THIS SPEED, THOUGH, IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE THEY EVEN REALIZE I'M *HERE*.

...AND BEING *HELD* IN HIS OWN...

PRISON...

MY GUESS IS...

EL PRESIDENTE IS VERY MUCH *ALIVE*...

SO WHEN I FIND HIM...

ESQUELITO!? THIS IS A PRETTY *DISHY* PRISON FOR A *DEAD* AND *DEPOSED* RULER!

AH, YOU ARE *FLASH*, NO? BUT I AM NEITHER *DEAD* NOR *DEPOSED*! I AM *STILL* EL PRESIDENTE!

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS, MORGAN RULE, A.K.A. THE *SILVER SQUID*, WAS THE C.I.A. CONTACT-MAN IN SAN FELIPE...

FOLLOWING *ORDERS*, HE SIPHONED MONEY TO KEEP ESQUELITO IN POWER, WHILE TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE *DRUGS* AND GUN-RUNNING...

WHEN HE GOT DISGUSTED AND THREATENED TO *QUIT*, ESQUELITO HAD HIS WIFE *TORTURED* AND *KILLED*...

I JUST HOPE *JIMMY* DOESN'T HAVE TO PAY FOR A DICTATOR'S *CRIMES!*

NOW THE *AGENCY* IS STILL PROTECTING ESQUELITO... AFRAID OF WHAT HE KNOWS...

SO YOU DEPOSED YOURSELF...?

SI, AN' ARRESTED MYSELF... HERE!

I KNOW MORE THAN NORIEGA... AN' NO ONE WISHES ME TO TALK!

THE CIA EVEN PROTECTS ME... WITH THESE FINE GENTLEMEN.

I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE NOW, SIR.

RIGHT, I GET THE PICTURE.

HEY! THAT GUY JUST STOLE OUR DICTATOR!

KKOOSSHH

AHHH, SHADDUP!

THERE'S A PARTY GOING ON IN METROPOLIS AND I DON'T WANT YOU TO MISS IT!

HELLP...

AND SO...

DAILY PLANET. MAILROOM. A MESSAGE FOR MR. WEST...?

LEMME SEE, YEAH, FROM MR. S...

"SILVER SQUID HAS A NEW ADDRESS..." SO WHAT'S THIS, A NEW SEAFOOD RESTAURANT...?

"I JUST LOVE SEAFOOD..."

67 St.
SWAN PL.
BORING ST.

SMUNNCH

YOU GOT MY MESSAGE.

MY SOURCES SAY YOU SPRUNG ESQUELITO. WHERE IS HE?

ON THE WAY.

HAAALPP!

FLASH! YOU BROUGHT HIM!

WAIT! YOU HAVE TO...

OH.

HERE, TAKE THE FILTH!

I'VE WAITED A LONG TIME FOR THIS, ESQUELITO.

ZZZHATT!

NOW YOU DIE!

HEY, WAIT...

HE'S GONE!

BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!

I JUST HAD TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH...

... SO I COULD DO THIS.!

KRAASH

YOU CAN'T STOP ME! I'M FAST.! I GOT POWER!

WAK WAK WAK

C'MON, KID.! TIME WE GOT OUT OF HERE...

TRAM

BZZZZZT BZZZZZT BZZZT

HAH.! YOU FELT THAT.! IT HURT YOU.!

YES, BUT I SUSPECT IT HURT YOU MORE.!

I'LL BURN YOU...

MAYBE. BUT YOUR *FILE* SAID YOU'VE BEEN DOSING ON *AMPHETAMINES* AND *STEROIDS* TO BOOST YOUR *POWERS*.!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THEY *BURN OUT*?

YOU'LL BE *DEAD*.!

YOU... YOU'LL...

...BE...

...DEAD...

THE AUTHORITIES ARE ON THEIR WAY.

I GUESSED WHAT YOU WERE TRYING WHEN I SAW THROUGH FLASH'S COWL AND REALIZED IT WASN'T YOU. YOU TOOK A *BIG CHANCE.*

I HAD TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO GET *BETWEEN* HIM AND JIM.

WELL, YOU GUYS DID GREAT! I'M STILL IN ONE PIECE!

AND WHO PLAYED *FLASH*? THAT WAS *PRETTY RISKY!*

MY PAL, THE *PIED PIPER*! SEE, I'VE GOT A *TALENT* FOR PICKING FRIENDS...!

AND ESQUELITO...?

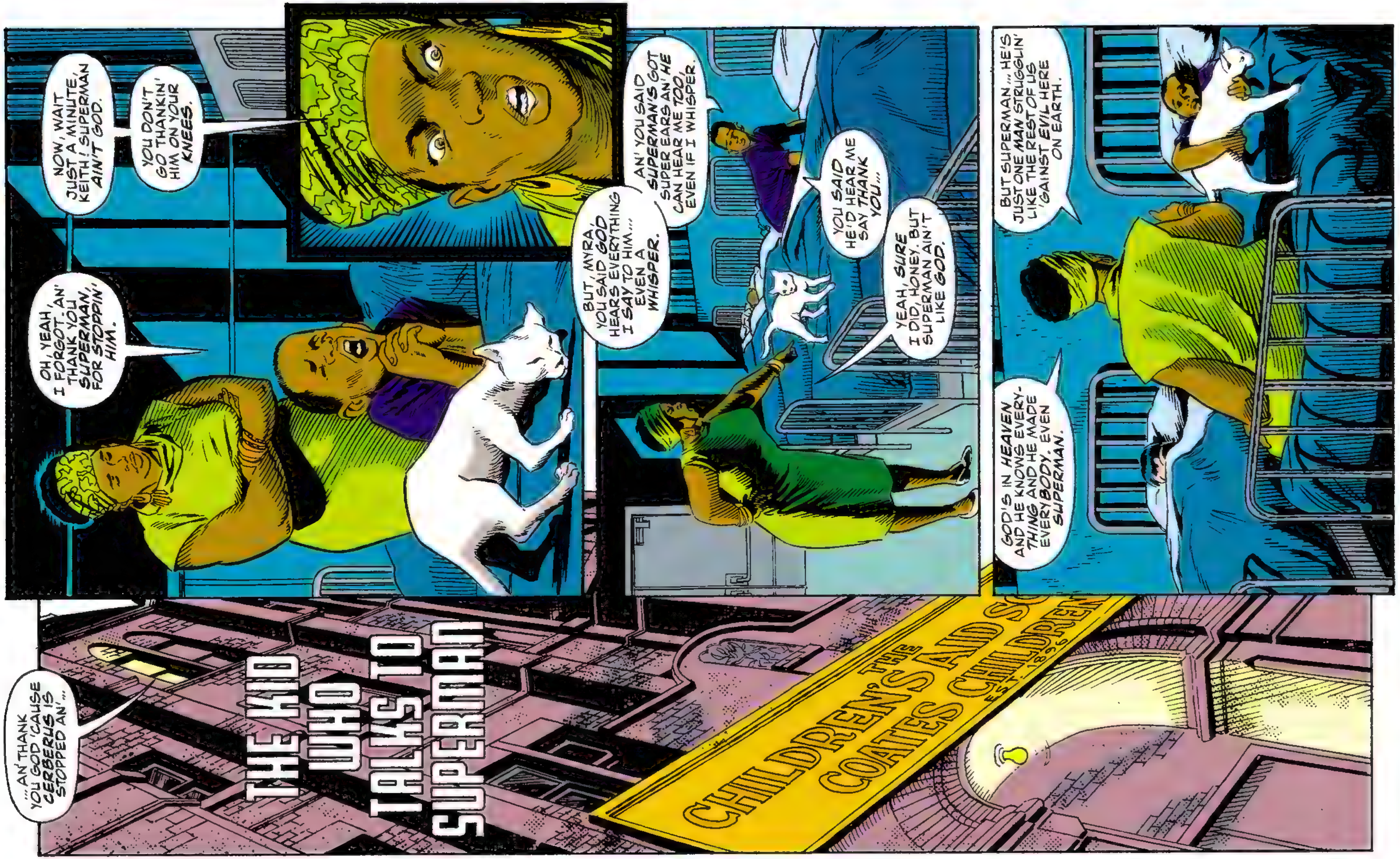
"OH, I DROPPED HIM OFF DOWNTOWN. I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE HARD TO FIND."

...I'M TELLING YOU, I AM A *VERY IMPORTANT MAN*! TAKE ME TO THE *C.I.A.*! HEADS WILL ROLL!

SUN

Nadine's all you can EAT

NEXT *NIGHTMARE IN FREEFALL!*


OH, YEAH, I FORGOT. AN' THANK YOU SUPERMAN, FOR STOPPIN' HIM.
NOW, WAIT JUST A MINUTE, KEITH! SUPERMAN AIN'T GOD.
YOU DON'T GO THANKIN' HIM ON YOUR KNEES.
BUT, MYRA, YOU SAID GOD HEARS EVERYTHING I SAY TO HIM... EVEN A WHISPER.
AN' YOU SAID SUPERMAN'S GOT SUPER EARS AN' HE CAN HEAR ME TOO, EVEN IF I WHISPER.
YEAH, SURE I DID, HONEY. BUT SUPERMAN AIN'T LIKE GOD.
YOU SAID HE'D HEAR ME SAY THANK YOU...
BUT SUPERMAN... HE'S JUST ONE MAN STRUGGLIN' LIKE THE REST OF US 'GAINST EVIL HERE ON EARTH.
GOD'S IN HEAVEN AND HE KNOWS EVERY-THING AND HE MADE EVERY BODY. EVEN SUPERMAN.
...AN' THANK YOU GOD 'CAUSE CERBERUS IS STOPPED AN'...
THE KID WHO TALKS TO SUPERMAN
CHILDREN'S THE COATES SAID SO
EST. 1896

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BUT SUPERMAN CAN FLY AN' HE CAN HEAR ME... AN' HE SAVED THE WORLD, MYRA. I THINK, MAYBE, HE'S AT LEAST A ANGEL.

NO WAY THAT'S SO, AN' YOU OUGHTA BE ASHAMED TO EVEN THINK SUCH A THING.

GOOD NIGHT, BOY.

'NIGHT, MYRA.

I'M NOT ON MY KNEES ANYMORE, AM I, TIGER? SO-- THANK YOU, SUPERMAN!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, BELCHER? YOU BEEN BELLY-ACHIN' SINCE WE GOT THIS ASSIGNMENT!

SUPERMAN OWNS THIS TOWN, RORC, THAT'S MY PROBLEM! WHY'D THE BOSS HAFTA SEND US HERE? TELL ME THAT!

MELLOW OUT, BELCH. OUR POINT MAN DISRUPTED METROPOLIS ...AND LEXCORP... BEFORE HE WAS DESTROYED...

ORDERS IS ORDERS, BUT IT STILL STINKS. I COULDA BEEN FRYIN' QURACCIS IN THE GULF, 'STEAD O' SKULKIN' IN ALLEYS...

...IF THEM STINKIN' PENCIL PUSHERS HADN'T SECTION EIGHTED ME!

WARNING THESE PREMISES PROTECTED BY HELHOUND SECURITY SYSTEMS

U.S. ARMY

...SO WE CLOSE DOWN HIS OPERATION BEFORE WE INITIATE OUR OWN. WHAT'S THE HASSLE?

YEAH, SUUURRE! MAN, LIKE YOU HAD SO MANY ULCERS YOU HARDLY HAD ANY STOMACH LEFT.

GUNCH

BUT CERBERUS FIXED THAT FOR YOU, HUH? GAVE YOU A CAST IRON GUT!

SO DO YOUR BIT FOR THE BOSS AND TURN THAT ACID-MOUTH TO SECURING THIS COMPLEX...!

BELCHER

RAHRRRR!

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GROOVY. AN' NOW, M'MAN, WE'RE GONNA SHOW METROPOLIS THAT CERBERUS HAS MORE THAN ONE HEAD!

THE NEXT AFTER-NOON...

YOU'RE NEW HERE.

YEAH, JIMMY OLSEN... ACE PHOTOG-RAPHER. MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF ME...?

AND I'M THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND. NAME'S YOSHI, BUT MY FRIENDS CALL ME BABE.

NO, I AM A PHOTOGRAPHER, BABE. REALLY. I GOT LAID OFF.

DIDN'T YOU SEE ME IN LAST WEEK'S STAR? ME, SUPERMAN, FLASH AND THIS SLUG NAMED--!

OH, FORGET IT... *

* NO, DON'T! CHECK OUT FLASH #53-- ON SALE NOW!

NO, REALLY, THIS IS THE PLAN... I APPLY TO NEWSTIME FOR A JOB, BUT THE ONLY OPENING THEY HAVE IS THIS.

SO, OKAY, I FIGURE, ;WHEW;... TAKE THE JOB, PAY THE RENT, AND, WITH THE CONTACTS I MAKE WORKING HERE...

...THE FIRST REAL JOB OPENING IS IN MY POCKET!

CONTACTS, HERE? YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING! THESE GUYS DON'T EVEN THINK WE GOT FACES.

HEY, YOU! I THOUGHT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE EXECUTIVE CAFETERIA!

SO HOW COME MY SODA'S *HOT*... AND THE POTATOES ARE *COLD*?!

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE *RIGHT*. THE SODA MACHINE MUST BE BROKEN AGAIN.

HERE, TAKE THIS *COFFEE* IF YOU WANT SOMETHING COLD... THE *HEATER'S* BROKEN, TOO.

WHAT ARE YOU... *CRAZY*? BABE, THEY COULD *FIRE* YOU FOR THAT!

SO THEY *FIRE* ME! I WAS THINKING OF QUITTING ANYWAY. THE PLACE HAS TURNED INTO LIKE A REAL *DIVE*, YA KNOW?

IT *HAS*...?

SURE. EVER SINCE *LUTHOR* DIED.

LEX LUTHOR SERVICED THIS EQUIPMENT?

"IN A WAY. DIDN'T THEY TELL YOU? LEXCORP *OWNS* THIS *BUILDING*."

...A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP... ;BEEP!...

LANA, IF YOU'RE AT THIS NUMBER, THIS IS *CLARK*. CALL ME, PLEASE. WE HAVE TO TALK.

YEAH, RIGHT. AND WHAT DO I SAY, IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT SHE EVER GETS THIS MESSAGE AND ACTUALLY CALLS ME BACK THIS TIME...?

"SORRY, LANA, I KNOW YOU LOVE ME, BUT, TOUGH, I'M MARRYING LOIS...?"

NO MATTER HOW DIPLOMATICALLY I PHRASE IT, THAT'S WHAT SHE'S GOING TO HEAR...

THOOM THOOM WHUMPF

WHAT THE HECK--?

APACHEE CHOPPER!

THOOM

FIRING ROCKETS AT THE *NEWSTIME BUILDING*?!

SKRASH!

WAUMPF

WHAT THE *HECK* IS--?!

MY GOD!

NAPALM!

HAVE TO GET THE CHOPPER OUT OVER THE *OCEAN*... AWAY FROM THE *CITY!*

WHO CAN HAVE *DONE* THIS...? *X-RAY VISION* SHOWS...

NO PILOT... *NO ONE'S* THERE! IT'S A *DRONE*... ON *REMOTE!*

BUT FROM *WHERE?* WHO'S *GUIDING* IT?

NO TIME TO WAIT FOR ANSWERS... HAVE TO CONCENTR--

BA-ROOM!

YOU KNOW WHAT WE WANT-- DO IT BY SIX OR THE CITY BURNS! CERBERUS

AWWW, *NO!* NOT *AGAIN!*

YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S GONNA BE A NEXT TIME?

WHY NOT? THERE'S NO WAY LEXCORP WILL ACCEDE TO OUR DEMANDS...

...JUST LIKE THERE'S NO WAY *SUPERMAN'S* GONNA *STOP* WHAT'S GONNA GO DOWN TONIGHT.

DAMNED NOISY *KIDS!* WHO SET US UP ACROSS FROM THAT FREAKIN' *ORPHANAGE*, ANYWAY?

THAT BLASTED INTERFERING ALIEN.

WE'D HAVE *BLOWN* THE CHOPPER IN ANY CASE, BELCH.

SO DON'T *SWEAT* IT, WILLYA? NEWSTIME IS BURNING. HE *DIDN'T* STOP US THIS TIME AND HE *WON'T* STOP US NEXT TIME EITHER.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, BELCH? YOU SCARED THOSE LITTLE KIDS ARE GONNA SNEAK UP HERE AND *SPY* ON YOU?

WISH ONE OF 'EM WOULD TRY. I'D LOVE TA *FRY* ONE OF THOSE LITTLE SUCKERS.

YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT HIGHER UP IN THE *ORGANIZATION*, BELCH. YOUR *PRIORITIES* ARE TWISTED.

USE YOUR HEAD, MAN. WOULDN'T YOU RATHER FRY *SUPERMAN*--

"--THAN FRY A BUNCH OF LOSER NOBODIES?"

THEY'RE *FREAKIN'* OUT!

NO KIDDIN'!

LET ME *OUTTA* HERE!

RUN!

FIRE!

LOOK, PEOPLE, CALM DOWN! DON'T PANIC!

RUN!

SMOKE!

:KOFF KOFF:

SOMETHING TELLS ME THEY'RE NOT LISTENING!

FIGURES. COME ON!

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD-- HURRY! :KOFF: NEVER ONE OF THESE BLASTED THINGS AROUND WHEN YOU :KOFF: NEED ONE!

WHAT IS HE, CRAZY?

LOOK, SIR, YOU CAN'T USE THE ELEVATORS IN A FIRE. YOU COULD BE TRAPPED!

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU... YOU HASH-SLINGER! YOU THINK I'M WALKIN' DOWN THOSE STAIRS, YOU'RE STUPIDER...

...THAN YOU... :AAK:... BAD HEART...

WOULDN'T YOU KNOW HE'D PICK NOW TO HAVE A HEART ATTACK?

LISTEN, BABE, I'VE :UNG: GOT HIM... YOU GO ON...

YEAH, RIGHT, MR. HERO. I'M STAYING, JIM! TOGETHER MAYBE WE CAN LUG HIS FAT CARCASS OUTTA HERE!

STAIRS ARE OVER-- OH, NO!

GET BACK! FIRE IN THE STAIRWELL!

STAIR

WE'RE TRAPPED!

PEOPLE ;KAFF; COLLAPSED...

WE'RE ALL ;KAFF KOF; GONNA DIE!

USE... YOUR HAT AS A ;KOFF; MASK... BREATHE THROUGH IT...

RIGHT, RED... ;KOF;... BREATHE...

LOOK, EVERYBODY, STAY ;KAFF; COOL!

GET DOWN CLOSE TO THE FLOOR! REAL DANGER FROM THESE ;KOFF; FIRES IS SMOKE ;KOFF; INHALATION!

C'MON, BABE, THINK! ;KAFF KOF; THERE'S GOT TO BE... ANOTHER... WAY... OUT

CRASH

HUH...?

THANK GOD... I SHOULDA KNOWN...

"...SUPERMAN!"

LOIS LANE TREATS YOU LIKE A FRIEND! MAN, YOU REALLY WERE A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE PLANET, WEREN'T YOU?

THANKS FOR THE INSIGHTS ON THE FIRE, JIMMY. GLAD YOU'RE OKAY. CATCH YOU LATER!

THOSE WERE THE GOOD OLD DAYS...

...WHILE THIS STINKS! I DIDN'T LIKE WORKING IN A LEXCORP FACILITY BEFORE, AND I LIKE IT A LOT LESS NOW!

ME, TOO. YOU ASK ME, OUR JOBS WENT UP IN SMOKE WITH THE TABLES AND CHAIRS, ANYWAY!

SO WHADDAYA SAY, RED -- LET'S BLOW OFF THIS FOOD SERVICE GIG? AFTER ALL...

"...THERE'S A LOT MORE TO LIFE THAN TUNA FISH CASSEROLE!"

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, SIR.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MS. LANE?

IT WAS CERBERUS, WASN'T IT?

I'M AFRAID SO, LOIS. I THOUGHT I'D STOPPED THEM, BUT I WAS WRONG. MORE PEOPLE COULD HAVE DIED...

YOU CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE.

MAYBE NOT, BUT UNTIL THOSE CREEPS ARE STOPPED, I'M GONNA TRY.

AND, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE, HERE COME THE *LEXCORP* WEASELS!

SUPERMAN!

I KNOW THAT YOU AND THE LATE *MR. LUTHOR* HAD YOUR DIFFERENCES...

...BUT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS PLEASED TO HAVE YOU *AIDING* LEXCORP AGAINST *CERBERUS.*

THIS DWEEB MUST HAVE A DEATH WISH, TO RUB CLARK'S *NOSE* IN THE FACT THAT HE'S HELPING *LEXCORP!*

CERBERUS IS TARGETING LEXCORP PROPERTY ... AND THAT ENDANGERS ALL OF *METROPOLIS.*

THE BOARD UNDERSTANDS THAT. BUT CONTRARY TO WHAT CERBERUS HAS IMPLIED, WE *DON'T* KNOW WHAT THEY WANT.

MR. LUTHOR HAD MANY *INVESTMENTS,* AND HE MADE MANY *ENEMIES...*

...NONE OF WHOM IS *POWERFUL* ENOUGH TO MOUNT THIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST US.

AND EVEN IF WE *KNEW* WHAT CERBERUS WANTED, WOULD IT BE RIGHT TO CAPITULATE TO *TERRORISTS'* DEMANDS?

THAT KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE A *CLUE* TO CERBERUS' *IDENTITY.* THEY SAY THEY'LL *BURN* THE CITY, GENTLEMEN...

...AND I *BELIEVE* THEM. FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY WANT. REMEMBER, IF THE CITY BURNS, LEXCORP'S *ASSETS* GO WITH IT.

FIGURE IT OUT, OR LEXCORP MAY NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO *BUY OFF* THE TERRORISTS WITH.

IT COULD BE *TATTAMALIA,* SIR. WE'VE HAD THREATS FROM *THEM.*

IT *CAN'T* BE. THEY'RE SMALL... POOR. HOW COULD THEY *AFFORD* ... ALL OF *THIS?*

I DON'T *KNOW,* SIR. BUT I THINK IF IT WERE UP TO ME--

"--I'D TRY TO FIND OUT."

I HAVE THE INFO YOU WANTED ON TATTAMALIA, LOIS. YOU THINK THEY MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CERBERUS ATTACKS?

DAILY PLANET

MAYBE. I DON'T KNOW, FRAN.

LEXCORP WAS ENGAGING IN A HOSTILE TAKEOVER OF THEIR ONLY INDUSTRY, AND THEIR REVOLUTIONARIES DIDN'T LIKE IT.

TATTAMALIA HAS A MOTIVE, BUT SO DO LOTS OF OTHER FOLKS. RIGHT NOW, I'M GRASPING AT STRAWS.

YOU KNOW, METROPOLIS HAS BEEN ON THE DOWN SWING FOR A WHILE NOW. AND IT'S TAKING THE PLANET DOWN WITH IT.

YOU KNOW OUR UNION CONTRACTS ARE UP FOR NEGOTI-ATIONS.

YEAH. SURE. SO...?

TAK TEK TIK TAK TEK

SO, I'VE HEARD THEY WON'T GIVE US ANYWHERE NEAR WHAT WE'RE ASKING ...THAT THERE JUST MIGHT BE SOME TROUBLE.

AND NOW THIS. YOU REALLY THINK CERBERUS IS GONNA TRY AND BURN DOWN THE CITY?

WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME.

TAK TAK TIK TEK TAK TIK

I'VE GOT TWO KIDS. ALL THIS REALLY HAS ME SPOOKED. WE'RE TALKING NEGATIVE QUALITY OF LIFE HERE.

LOOK, I'M NOT FEELING WELL.

"I'M GONNA GO HOME EARLY..."

HONK HONK!

BEEP! B-DEEP!

ME AND 85 PER CENT OF METROPOLIS'S POPULATION!

HONK HONK! BEEP! B-DEEP!

!HONK!B-DEEP!BEEP!

CLARK...?

IT'S A ZOO DOWN THERE, LOIS. WALL TO WALL CARS.

PEOPLE ARE *AFRAID*. THEY'RE PANICKING. AND YOU'VE FOUND *NOTHING*?

IT'S *FRUSTRATING*... AND TIME IS NEARLY UP!

DO *YOU* WANT TO LEAVE, TOO?

GET *REAL*, KENT! I WON'T LET CERBERUS DRIVE ME FROM MY CITY. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I WANT TO BE HERE...

... IF ONLY TO TELL THE WORLD WHAT THAT SLIME HAS DONE.

I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT, DARLING, BUT I HAD TO ASK.

BE CAREFUL, OKAY?

"WITH OUR *LEAD-LINED* ROOF, SUPERMAN DIDN'T SEE NOTHIN'..."

...AN' THOSE COMMUTER JERKS ARE LININ' THEMSELVES UP LIKE SPAM ON A GROCERY SHELF.

THEY'RE GONNA BE FRIED SPAM SOON...

YES SIR, I UNDERSTAND.

BAD NEWS, BELCH! LEXCORP HAS FOLDED ON THE TATTAMALIAN DEMANDS...!

CURSE THEIR LILY-LIVERED HIDES! ALL THIS PREPARATION, AND FOR WHAT?!

I CAN DIG IT, BUT...

HEY, BELCH, WHAT'RE YOU DOING? THE CONTRACT'S CANCELLED!

MAYBE IT IS, HIPPIE... BUT THE DESTRUCTION'S ABOUT TO BEGIN ANYWAYS!

TAK

THOOM!

TROOM!

BOOM!

OMIGOD! IT WASN'T A BLUFF!

MORE ROCKETS, FILLED WITH *NAPALM!*

CAN'T LET THEM *RAIN FIRE* ON THE CITY!

GOT TO *DIVERT* THEM--

--INTO THE *RIVER!*

THREE DOWN... TWO TO-- OH, *NO!*

SPLA-

BAROOM

BATHOOM

"LOOKIT 'EM *BURN!* WE STARTED IT... AND THEIR OWN *GAS TANKS'LL* DO THE REST! STUPID *LOSERS!* CROWDIN' EACH OTHER ON THE BRIDGE LIKE THAT!

BOOOM!

"YOU WERE RIGHT, RORC. EVEN SUPERMAN AIN'T GONNA BE ABLE TA STOP THIS!"

MROWW!

OW! BAD KITTY, YOU SCRATCHED ME!

TIGER! COME BACK! I DIDN'T MEAN IT! HERE, KITTY!

LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED, BUT--

"TIGER!"

DARN!

DON'T BE SCARED, KITTY! I'LL SAVE YOU! MOM GAVE YOU TO ME 'FORE SHE WENT AWAY.

I PROMISED I'D KEEP YOU SAFE. DON'T WORRY.

YOU'RE ALL OF HER I GOT LEFT.

HERE, KITTY! COME ON! PLEASE COME ON! I'M THINKIN' MAYBE WE BETTER HURRY! I'M SCARED...

"... THE WHOLE CITY'S GONNA BURN."

IF LUCK IS WITH ME, I CAN HAUL THESE CARS OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEY GO UP, TOO!

HELP US... PLEASE...! THE DOOR...

I'VE GOT IT, MA'AM! DON'T WORRY. I'LL GET THE BOY.

MDS•2

143 CKB

SEEING A LOT OF EACH OTHER TODAY, AREN'T WE, CHIEF?

M.P.D.

POLICE LIN

POLICE

UNFORTUNATELY. WE CAN HANDLE THE FIRE FROM HERE, SUPERMAN! AND WHEN YOU GET THE SCUM WHO DID THIS...

"... GIVE 'EM THE BEATING THEY DESERVE!"

HERE, TIGER! COME HERE, GIRL!

DARN!

HERE, TIG--?!

WELL, IF IT AIN'T ONE A' THEM STINKIN', NOISE-MAKIN' ORPHAN KIDS!

I WAS GETTIN' SET TO LAUNCH MY SECOND BARRAGE WHEN YOU SET OFF THAT ALARM, YOU LITTLE TWIT...

"... AN' NOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY..."

...FOR THE TROUBLE YOU CAUSED ME...

SUPERMAN--

"--HELP!"

BARRAGE...? DOES HE MEAN THE FIRE-ROCKETS?

AUNT MYRA SAID SUPERMAN CAN HEAR ME WHISPER. I JUST HOPE HE CAN HEAR ME SCREAM!

HELP!

SOME-ONE... A CHILD... CALLING ME... FROM DOWN BELOW!

WHAT IS THAT SMELL?! ROCKET EXHAUST! THE MISSILE MUST'VE COME FROM THIS BUILDING!

CRASH!!

*#@!!

WHOA! CLASSIC!

HE'S ONE OF THE BAD GUYS, SUPER-MAN! HE'S CERBERUS!

OUTTA MY WAY, PUNK--

--YOU'LL SPOIL MY AIM!

HE'S TOUGH, I'LL GIVE 'IM THAT--

RARRAH!

"-- BUT EVEN *SUPERMAN* WON'T SURVIVE *THIS!*"

WHOA! SOME KIND OF VOLITILE, HIGHLY CAUSTIC *ACID!* CAN'T HURT ME, BUT IT'S SET THE PLACE ON *FIRE!*

GIVE IT UP, JERK! IF THE FLAMES REACH THE ORDNANCE IN YOUR *MISSILE LAUNCHERS* ON THE ROOF...

...THIS *BUILDING* WILL GO UP-- LIKE ONE GIANT *NAPALM BOMB!*

AND *YOU'LL* GO UP WITH-- *UGN!*

NOT A *CHANCE,* MAN OF STEEL--

CHOKK

--IT'S *YOU* WHO WILL *DIE!*

CLAW IS... *DEADLY*... *POWERFUL!* WHAT *DRIVES* IT...? WHERE DID THESE GUYS GET THEIR *POWER?*

KEITH! GO ON, BOY...

...RUN! GET *OUT* OF HERE! *NOW!*

NO. THEY'RE BAD AN' MEAN! I... I'LL *HELP* YOU...

...SOMEHOW...

A BRAVE KID... MORE GUTS THAN BRAINS...!

NO!

KEITH, DO AS YOU'RE TOLD! I'VE GOT THINGS WELL IN HAND!

Y-YOU CAN'T BE THAT STRONG! NO ONE CAN BE THAT STRONG!

I WANT ANSWERS, LOBSTER! WHO HIRED YOU? WHO DO YOU SERVE? WHO IS CERBERUS?

NO!

ANSWER ME!

RACHT!

I--UNK!

WHAT HAPPENED--? AUTONOMIC REFLEXES ARE WORKING! X-RAY VISION SHOWS NO DAMAGE TO HIS PHYSICAL BODY...

I DON'T LIKE BULLIES, SERGEANT, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY THREATEN MY CITY!

BELCHER

WE'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT YOUR ACID DOESN'T HARM ME!

SO TALK, SERGEANT! TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON...

...OR YOU COULD END UP LIKE YOUR CLAW-ARMED FRIEND!

HE ALMOST ANSWERED ME... SO CLOSE. THEN HE WENT RIGID AND SHUT DOWN... ALMOST LIKE SOMEONE TURNED HIM OFF!

ONE DOWN... BUT THERE'S STILL ONE TO GO!

HORACE BELCHER. SERGEANT. SERIAL NO. 0076-AA-539.

THIS ISN'T ARMY, BELCHER. TALK!

N-NO... WON'T... WON'T TELL YOU ANY-THING! YOU DIDN'T HURT THAT FOOL RORC...

...YOU DIDN'T DO NUTHIN'!

IT WAS HIM! HE DID IT ALL!

WHO...? WHO DID--

HIM! CER--

!UNK!

BLAST! HIS EYES GLAZED OVER AND HE SHUT DOWN, JUST LIKE HIS PARTNER!

KEITH--?! MOVE IT, SON! THE BUILDING'S ABOUT TO BLOW!

I KNOW, SUPERMAN, BUT--

...LIKE THE CITY IS YOURS!

NO, PUT ME DOWN! I GOTTA SAVE TIGER... LIKE YOU SAVED ME!

SHE'S MY... MY 'SPONSIBILITY...

DON'T WORRY, KEITH--

--I'D NO MORE LET TIGER BURN THAN I WOULD THESE TWO LOSERS!

BAM

BOOM

KEITH! WHERE WERE YOU, BOY? YOU HAD ME WORRIED HALF TO DEATH!

I TOLE HIM AN' TOLE HIM NOT TO LEAVE THE YARD AN' NOW HE'S TAKIN' UP YOUR VALUABLE TIME...

...WHEN YOU GOT SO MUCH MORE TO DO!

THE BAD GUYS CAUGHT ME AN' WERE GONNA KILL ME, MYRA, BUT HE SAVED ME!

HE'S A BRAVE LAD, MYRA. TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM. AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...?

THERE HE GOES. TO HELP MORE PEOPLE...

LIKE HE HELPED ME! HE IS A ANGEL, MYRA... REALLY. A GUARDIAN ANGEL FOR THE WHOLE CITY!

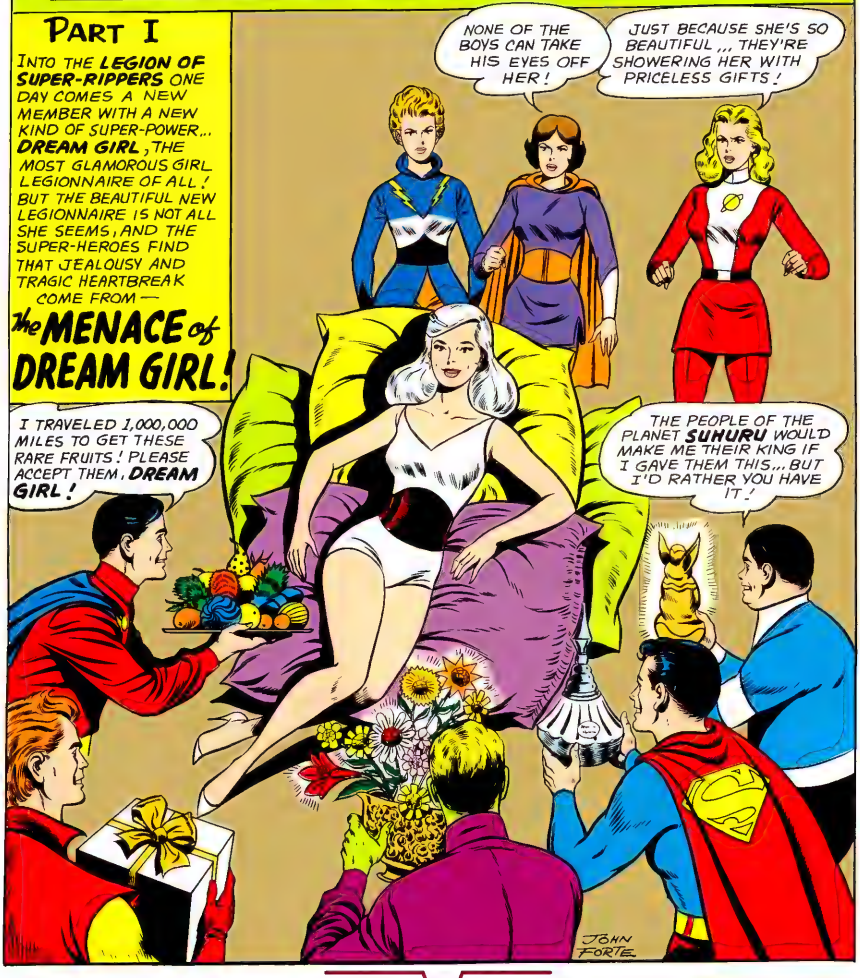
YOU KNOW, SUGARPLUM, I THINK MAYBE YOU JUST MIGHT BE RIGHT.

TALES OF THE LEGION of SUPER-RIPPERS

PART I

INTO THE **LEGION OF SUPER-RIPPERS** ONE DAY COMES A NEW MEMBER WITH A NEW KIND OF SUPER-POWER... **DREAM GIRL**, THE MOST GLAMOROUS GIRL LEGIONNAIRE OF ALL! BUT THE BEAUTIFUL NEW LEGIONNAIRE IS NOT ALL SHE SEEMS, AND THE SUPER-HEROES FIND THAT JEALOUSY AND TRAGIC HEARTBREAK COME FROM —

the MENACE of DREAM GIRL!


NONE OF THE BOYS CAN TAKE HIS EYES OFF HER!
JUST BECAUSE SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL ,,, THEY'RE SHOWERING HER WITH PRICELESS GIFTS!
I TRAVELED 1,000,000 MILES TO GET THESE RARE FRUITS! PLEASE ACCEPT THEM, DREAM GIRL!
THE PEOPLE OF THE PLANET SUHURU WOULD MAKE ME THEIR KING IF I GAVE THEM THIS,,, BUT I'D RATHER YOU HAVE IT!
JOHN FORTE

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58
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24

WATCH YOUR BACK, SUPERMAN®

THE BLOODHOUNDS™ ARE ON YOUR TAIL!

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER ARE UPON YOU!

BY JURGENS & BREEDING

FANGS OF THE BLOODHOUNDS

OUT OF MY WAY, BOYS!

NO ONE'S GONNA STOP ME FROM SEEING THE *BOSS!*

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BACK OFF, *GUARDIAN!* IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME--

I DON'T HAVE *TIME* TO MESS AROUND WITH APPOINTMENTS, WESTFIELD!

--THEN MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH MY *SECRETARY!*

IT'S FAR PREFERABLE THAN SEEING MY BODY-GUARDS WIND UP IN THE INFIRMARY!

DUBBILEX JUST TOLD ME THAT YOU'VE ORDERED *PROJECT BLOODHOUND* INTO THE NEXT PHASE AND I'M HERE TO FIND OUT WHY!

EXCUSE MY INDISCRETION, DIRECTOR WESTFIELD, BUT THE GUARDIAN *IS* CHIEF OF *CADMUS* SECURITY!

WHAT ARE *YOU*, DUBBILEX? A TELEPATH OR A GOSSIP COLUMNIST?

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ANYWAY? YOU *KNOW* WE'VE BEEN RUNNING *BLOODHOUND* EVER SINCE YOU REPORTED THE *INCIDENT!*

BACK THEN IT WAS JUST AN *OBSERVATION* OPERATION--ONE THAT WAS QUITE JUSTIFIED!

AS IS THE NEXT PHASE, HARPER!

RECENT EVENTS HAVE COMPELLED ME TO ACCELERATE BLOODHOUND INTO THE *SNARE* PHASE! I DON'T LIKE IT--BUT IT'S NECESSARY!

WE'VE CONCLUDED OUR TARGET IS *DANGEROUS!*

WE MUST CAPTURE *SUPERMAN!*

RIDICULOUS! SUPERMAN WENT THROUGH HIS ORDEAL MONTHS AGO!

THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL IT? AN *ORDEAL?*

SUPERMAN WENT OFF THE DEEP END BACK THEN, HARPER! HE WAS MASQUERADING AS A *DIFFERENT* VIGILANTE--

--AND HE DIDN'T EVEN *KNOW* IT! ON TOP OF THAT--

--I FEAR HIS MENTAL HEALTH HAS CONTINUED TO *DETERIORATE!*

COME ON, WESTFIELD! THE MAN MAY HAVE HAD A PROBLEM BUT IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO!

I WAS THERE, REMEMBER? I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW WEIRD I FELT WHEN I WAS FIGHTING *GANGBUSTER*--

--AND GOT THE SHOCK OF MY LIFE WHEN MY SHIELD RIPPED HIS SHIRT AND REVEALED HIM TO BE *SUPERMAN!**

"IT WAS EVEN WEIRDER TO REALIZE THAT AT THAT EXACT MOMENT SUPERMAN WAS APPARENTLY WAKING FROM SOME SORT OF TRANCE--

"--AND THAT HE HAD *NO IDEA* WHAT HE'D BEEN UP TO!"

NOW YOU'RE MAKING ME REGRET THAT I EVEN *REPORTED* THE BIZARRE INCIDENT TO YOU!

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, JIM! WHY DO YOU OBJECT NOW?

BECAUSE IT WAS A *ONE-TIME* THING! COUNTLESS ACTS OF GOOD BEFORE AND AFTER SHOULD BEAR THAT OUT.

HE DIDN'T EVEN DO ANY *REAL* DAMAGE AS *GANGBUSTER*...

BESIDES, ONLY THE THREE OF US WERE TO EVER KNOW ABOUT THAT DAY!

*Superman 27 and Adventures of Superman 450.

JIM, I DON'T LIKE TANGLING WITH A HERO LIKE SUPERMAN EITHER!

BUT THAT GANGBUSTER EPISODE IS JUST THE *TIP* OF A VERY MYSTERIOUS ICEBERG!

AFTER A LONG DISAPPEARANCE SUPERMAN ASSUMED YET ANOTHER IDENTITY-- *KRYPTON MAN!*

LAST WEEK A WHOLE NEW, INCREDIBLY DANGEROUS KRYPTON MAN SHOWED UP!

IT INDICATES A HIGH DEGREE OF VOLATILITY SURROUNDING THIS SO-CALLED MAN OF STEEL.

AND IT SIMPLY MEANS THE *DOGS* MUST BRING HIM IN!

ONCE HERE, DUBBILEX WILL PROBE EVERY CORNER OF HIS MIND WITH HIS TELEPATHIC POWERS!

WE'LL KNOW EVERY SINGLE SECRET SUPERMAN HAS!

THEN, IF WE EVER HAVE TO DEFUSE HIM, WE'LL HAVE SOME AMMO OF OUR--! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?!

NERVOUS, WESTFIELD? THAT "*THREATENING SOUND*" WAS JUST THE AIR CONDITIONER KICKING IN.

AS LONG AS YOU AGREE TO LET HIM GO WHEN YOU'RE DONE I'LL PLAY ALONG.

GUARANTEED. LISTEN, JIM, WE *NEED* THIS INFORMATION--

--BECAUSE WE MAY *NEED* TO KNOW HOW TO *BEAT* HIM SOMEDAY.

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, GUYS.

THE SENSOR EQUIPMENT IN MY HELMET HAS PICKED UP SUPERMAN'S DISTINCT AURA SOMEWHERE INSIDE THIS BUILDING!

IT'S A BIG BUILDING! CAN'T YOU TELL US WHERE?

NEGATIVE. IT TOOK US MONTHS OF ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE SUPERMAN EVEN *HAD* A UNIQUE "AURA."

IT TOOK ALMOST AS LONG TO BUILD THE CRUDE SENSORS THAT COULD DETECT ITS GENERAL LOCATION.

ALL WE CAN DO IS POSITION OURSELVES AND WAIT!

GOTCHA, *TRACKER!*

HUHHN!

I STILL DON'T LIKE IT--THIS IS *SUPERMAN* WE'RE TALKIN' ABOUT!

I DON'T WRITE THE ORDERS, I ONLY EXECUTE THEM!

WE'LL BE LUCKY IF SUPERMAN DOESN'T EXECUTE *US!*

NO MATTER--I'VE GOT THE NORTH FACADE SECURED! ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW--

"--IS WAIT FOR THE *MAN TO SHOW!*"

NICE OF YOU TO JOIN US, KENT.

SORRY I'M LATE, MARTY. MY ALARM DIDN'T WORK.

ACTUALLY, IT WAS AN 8-ALARM FIRE THAT KEPT ME BUSY!

THAT INFO YOU REQUESTED FROM THE MORGUE IS ON YOUR DESK.

THE DAILY PLANET IS TRYING TO *CUT COSTS*, MR. KENT.

FIRING TARDY COLUMNISTS COULD HELP ACHIEVE THAT, *HMMM?*

RIGHT, MR. FOSWELL. I'LL MAKE UP THE TIME TONIGHT!

CHECK THIS OUT! WHAT A COINCIDENCE THAT SHE'S LATE TOO!

COOL IT, ROBERT! I WAS BUSY WATCHING SUPERMAN EXTINGUISH THAT WARE-HOUSE BLAZE THIS MORNING!

SURRRE YOU, WERE!

OVER HERE, IF YOU PLEASE, MS. LANE!

AFTER REVIEWING YOUR EXPENSE REPORTS, I HAVE TO SAY THAT--

-- I AM *SHOCKED!*

EVERY SINGLE EXPENDITURE IS *LEGIT-IMATE*, MR. FOSWELL!

JUST DON'T GO OVERBOARD LIKE

UH-OH... I CAN SENSE LOIS GETTING TENSE ABOUT THIS!

THINK I'LL TRY AND LIGHTEN UP THE SITUATION!

AND IF I MOVE FAST ENOUGH--

--NO ONE WILL HAVE A CLUE--

--AS TO WHAT HAPPENED--

THIS

AGAIN.

--RIGHT UNDER THEIR NOSES!

EH?

SMACK!

AS LONG AS YOUR GIRL KNOWS YOU HAVE SUPER POWERS IT CAN'T HURT TO SHOW OFF EVERY NOW AND THEN!

IF THEY WANT TO SAVE MONEY AROUND HERE THEY SHOULD TURN DOWN THE AIR CONDITIONING!

THAT COPIER HAS MOVED A SIXTEENTH OF AN INCH!

I MUST BE SLOWING DOWN!

WAKE UP, BOYS... I JUST DETECTED A SURGE IN SUPERMAN'S AURA! I PLACE HIM ON ONE OF THE TOP TEN FLOORS!

GOOD GOING, TRACKER! WE CAN EACH TAKE A DIFFERENT FLOOR AND MEET IN THE MIDDLE!

UHRN!

ALL RIGHT, MOVE OUT! WITH A MODICUM OF LUCK WE'LL BE ABLE TO FORCE SUPERMAN INTO THE OPEN!

AND I'M HOPIN' I'M THE LUCKY ONE!

I MAY NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF DOGGIN' THE MAN OF STEEL--

-- WE'VE BEEN HOUNDIN' HIM FOR A LONNNNG TIME--

--BUT IF WESTFIELD WANTS HIM HE MUST HAVE A GOOD REASON!

I'M LOOKIN' FOR SUPERMAN! IF HE'S GOT ANY GUTS HE'LL SHOW HIMSELF BEFORE ONE OF YOU FOLKS GET HURT!

BOMBS AWA--

SKTASSHH

GREAT GODFREY! WHAT MANNER OF INSANITY--

I... I *THINK* WE'RE UNDER *ATTACK!*

AND HE'S LOOKING FOR *ME!*

HOW DID HE KNOW I WAS HERE-- THAT I'M SUPERMAN?

GOTTA BE CAREFUL! I DON'T WANNA HURT THESE PEOPLE-- JUST SCARE 'EM ENOUGH--

--TO BRING SUPERMAN OUTTA HIDING!

YOU WANNA STAY HEALTHY-- GIMME SUPERMAN! *NOW!*

TAKE A GOOD LOOK, MISTER! HE ISN'T HERE!

GOOD, LOIS! BUY ME SOME TIME--

--WHILE I TRY TO GET A HANDLE ON THE SITUATION!

X-RAY VISION REVEALS TWO MORE INTRUDERS ON NEARBY FLOORS!

THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY ACTING IN CONCERT-- TRYING TO FLUSH SUPERMAN OUT--!

GUESS I CAN'T DISAPPOINT THEM!

Daily

ONE SIDE, SIS! I'M GONNA FIND THAT CAPED CLOWN AND BRING HIM IN!

WHO *IS* THIS MAN?

STRICTLY A BIT PLAYER, IN MY OPINION! BUT IF SUPERMAN IS TO DO *ANYTHING* ABOUT THIS LAME-O--

-- HE'LL NEED A DIVERSION SO HE CAN SLIP AWAY!

CARE FOR SOME CREAM WITH YOUR *COFFEE?*

YAHHH!

OH, AND... I'M *NOT* YOUR "SISTER!"

THE LONE RANGER HAD TONTO--

--BATMAN HAS ROBIN--

--AND NOW CLARK HAS *LOIS!*

ALL MY EMOTIONS ARE TELLING ME TO HEAD BACK TO THE PLANET OFFICES TO HELP LOIS!

BUT THE LAST THING I NEED IS FOR SOME-ONE TO MAKE A DEFINITE CONNECTION BETWEEN CLARK KENT AND SUPERMAN!

BESIDES, THE NASTIEST LOOKING ONE IS THREATENING THIS INSURANCE COMPANY!

I HEAR YOU GUYS ARE LOOKING FOR ME!

DON'T KNOW WHY...

I'M *NOT* A PLASTIC SURGEON!

EEYARRGH!

RRRAHH!

:UHN:! YOU'RE A LOT FASTER THAN YOU LOOK--

--AND JUST AS *STRONG* TOO!

YOU OBVIOUSLY AREN'T TOO BRIGHT, THOUGH!

A GUY WHO CAN'T FLY SHOULDN'T BE THROWING HIMSELF OUT OF THIRTIETH-STORY WINDOWS!

HHNNN!

NOT ONLY DO I HAVE TO TUSSLE WITH YOU--

HHRNN?

--I HAVE TO SAVE YOUR MISERABLE HIDE AS WELL!

NO SENSE PUTTING YOU ON THE STREET WHERE YOU CAN HURT SOME INNOCENT PEOPLE!

I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE ON THE PLANET'S ROOF WHILE I ROUND UP YOUR FRIENDS.

HEY--! WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE GRABBING FOR?

ALL RIIIIGHT... BLOOD'S ULTRA-SONIC SIGNAL--!

HE'S GOT THE MAN OF STEEL--

--AND HE'S UP ON THE *ROOF!*

EXCELLENT!

LET'S BOOK!

GOOD! SUPERMAN'S ATTENTION IS STILL RIVETED ON BLOOD! WE ONLY HAVE SECONDS BEFORE HE TURNS--

--BUT THAT SHOULD ALLOW *MAC* AMPLE TIME TO STRIKE!

WE'VE REHEARSED THIS SCENARIO MANY TIMES! HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY, QUIETLY--

--AND FORCEFULLY!

YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET, SUPERMAN, BUT YOU'RE *OURS* NOW!

THE *OTHERS!* SHOULD'VE KNOWN THAT DEAFENING NOISE WAS A CALL TO ARMS!

THANKS FOR GIVING ME A PLACE TO TIE MY WHIP, SUPES!

DON'T BE *RIDICULOUS!*

YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN TO THINK A COMMON WHIP CAN KNOCK ME OUT OF ACTION!

CAREFUL, MAC! MY SENSORS INDICATE AN INSTANTANEOUS RISE IN SUPERMAN'S AURA READINGS!

BACK OFF! HE'S GOING TO USE HIS HEAT VISION!

NO SWEAT! YOU SEE, SUPES, THIS AIN'T NO COMMON WHIP! THIS THING HAS BEEN SPECIALLY ENGINEERED BY THE BRAIN BOYS--

--TO FRY *YOU* GOOD!

:UHNN!:

RARRGH!

A COORDINATED ASSAULT! THE BIG GUY MUST HAVE INSULATED GLOVES THAT *PROTECT* HIM FROM THE WHIP!

RRNNGH!

NOT ELECTRICAL! BUT IT'S STILL-- AFFECTING MY NERVOUS SYSTEM!

IT'S SO-- INTENSE--

CAN'T BREAK-- LOOSE...

HE'S FADING. LET'S CALL IN THE CHOPPER AND GET BACK TO BASE.

WEIRD. I KNOW WE'VE BEEN MONITORING SUPERMAN AS BEST WE COULD FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS--

--BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY THAT CADMUS WOULD *ATTACK* HIM!

"CADMUS?!"

"CADMUHHH..!"

ISN'T HE AWAKE *YET?*

HE IS REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS EVEN AS WE SPEAK.

THEN TAKE *CARE* OF HIM, DUBBILEX! WE DON'T WANT HIM RUNNING *WILD!*

AS YOU WISH.

MY TELEPATHIC GRIP WILL LEAVE HIM UNABLE TO MOVE.

WELCOME TO PROJECT CADMUS, SUPERMAN. I REALIZE THIS IS PROBABLY QUITE A SHOCK FOR YOU.

BUT DUBBILEX HAS TO RUN A THOROUGH MIND PROBE ON YOU AND WE KNEW YOU'D NEVER SUBMIT WILLINGLY.

THIS IS *INSANE!* SINCE WHEN DID CADMUS DECIDE TO GO AFTER THE GOOD GUYS?

AND GUARDIAN -- HOW CAN YOU EVEN BE A PART OF THIS?

NO COMMENT.

REST ASSURED THAT WE'LL RELEASE YOU AS SOON AS DUBBILEX HAS TAKEN EVERY LAST THOUGHT FROM YOUR MIND --

--AND TRANSFERRED IT INTO OUR COMPUTERS.

WHY?

WHAT REASON COULD YOU HAVE FOR DOING THIS?

CONSIDER THIS A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE.

SURE, YOU'RE SUPERMAN TODAY. BUT TOMORROW YOU MIGHT BE GANG-BUSTER OR, EVEN WORSE--ANOTHER *DARKSEID!*

IN THAT EVENT WE NEED THE MEANS TO...*DEAL* WITH YOU.

NOW, DUBBILEX. DO IT.

FEAR NOT.

NOO... PLEASSSSE...

THIS WILL BE PAINLESS. YOU WILL FORGET THIS ENTIRE PROCEDURE.

YESSS...

WE ARE ONE.

WE ARE ONE.

N-NO! I NEVER KNEW... NEVER *DREAMED* THAT SUPERMAN HAD--

WHAT?! WHAT HAVE YOU DISCOVERED?

BRACE YOURSELVES, BOYS! WE GOT A *CONDITION RED!*

NOT *NOW,* MAC! NOT *NOW!*

WE GOT UNAUTHORIZED ACTIVITY IN THE *ZOOMWAY* HEADED THIS WAY!

THE *HAIRIES?*

YOU GOT IT! SHOULD BE HERE ANY SEC--

RRRRRRRRRRR

RRRREEEEOO

GOOD GOD! THEY'VE BROUGHT THEIR WHOLE *MOUNTAIN OF JUDGMENT!*

ONLY ONE POSSIBLE REASON FOR THAT!

IT'S A *BREAKOUT!*

NO! I WILL NOT *TOLERATE* THIS!

WE "*GREW*" YOU TO HANDLE THIS SORT OF THING, GUARDIAN!

SO HANDLE IT!

BACK OFF, WESTFIELD! I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE YOUR GUFF *MUCH* LONGER!

KEEP THE GUARDIAN OCCUPIED WHILE I FREE SUPERMAN!

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO'LL NEED SAVING WILL BE *YOU!* YOU'RE UP AGAINST CADMUS'S *BEST* NOW!

THE HAIRIES ARE A PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE, MAC! IF POSSIBLE -- DON'T HURT THEM!

WE *MUST* PROVIDE THE PRECIOUS MOMENTS JUDE REQUIRES!

SUPERMAN THE *MAN* DESERVES BETTER!

SORRY, DUBBILEX, BUT THE BIG GUY HAS TO BE FREED!

UHH... I CAN *MOVE!*

WHU--!

I'VE *NEVER* LIKED CADMUS MUCH!

THEIR CLONING EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTING FAILURES *DEVALUE* LIFE TO ME!

BUT *THIS* EPISODE HAS PUSHED ME OVER THE BRINK!

I'M GONNA *RIP THIS PLACE APART!*

NO! WAIT, SUPERMAN!

GIVE ME ONE SECOND--HEAR ME OUT!

NO WAY, HARPER! AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO ME--

LISTEN, I *KNOW* THIS LOOKS BAD--

--BUT YOU MUST *TRUST* ME TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM!

DON'T FIGHT, DON'T GET MAD, DON'T DO ANYTHING BUT *LEAVE!*

LISTEN TO THE GUARDIAN, SUPERMAN.

D-DUBBILEX COMMUNICATING TELEPATHICALLY?

WE ACT IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS. YOU CAN AID US BY LEAVING WITH JUDE.

GUARDIAN WILL MEET YOU LATER AND SUPPLY YOU WITH A DETAILED EXPLANATION!

YOU CAN RENDEZVOUS WITH HIM IN THE ALLEY WHERE HE MADE HIS **DISCOVERY** IN ONE HOUR.

GO!

RUN AWAY?

NO. MERELY AVOID FUELING THE CONFLICT.

IT IS ALSO NECESSARY TO PROTECT THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED YOU.

WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY--

--I CAN SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. GET YOUR MEN BACK INTO THE MOUNTAIN OF JUDGMENT, JUDE!

WE'RE OUTTA HERE!

BLAST IT, GUARDIAN, CAN'T YOU *STOP* THEM?!

I'M BUSY!

YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS, SUPERMAN! DUBBILEX PROBED YOUR MIND!

WE KNOW ALL WE NEED TO KNOW TO KEEP YOU IN LINE!

I DON'T GET THIS-- ANY OF IT!

YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT THE HAIRIES LEFT THE CADMUS PROJECT YEARS AGO.

WE DO, HOWEVER, LIKE TO KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS.

WE DISCOVERED THAT WESTFIELD WANTED YOU BROUGHT IN AND KNEW WE COULDN'T ALLOW IT.

SO YOU LED A RAID TO SPRING ME.

AND THE GUARDIAN WAS SECRETLY HELPING YOU?

AS WAS DUBBILEX. BUT BE PATIENT.

GUARDIAN WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING SOON.

UNBELIEVABLE! THIS IS JUST ABOUT THE MOST SECURE INSTALLATION EVER BUILT--

--AND THOSE GUYS WALTZED IN HERE AND GRABBED SUPERMAN EASIER THAN A KID SWIPING BUBBLE GUM!

WE WERE CAUGHT BY THEIR SUPERIOR NUMBERS, SIR. IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

BLASTED HAIRY, HIPPIE FREAKS! CADMUS NEVER SHOULD'VE LEFT THEM FREE TO ROAM THAT STINKING ZOOMWAY!

AT LEAST DUBBILEX READ SUPERMAN'S MIND AND GOT THE SCOOP!

INDEED. I NOW KNOW WHAT DROVE HIM TO BECOME GANG-BUSTER.

THE KEY WAS A DEEP-SEATED PSYCHIC TRAUMA.

ONCE, ON AN EARTH-LIKE PLANET, SUPERMAN ENCOUNTERED THREE VILLAINS SO HEINOUS THAT NO DESCRIPTION IS ADEQUATE.

THE THREE KRYPTONIAN CRIMINALS HAD SLAUGHTERED EVERY SINGLE SOUL ON THE PLANET AND LEFT IT A SMOULDERING ROCK.

RATHER THAN LET THEM FIND THEIR WAY TO EARTH SUPERMAN, QUITE RELUCTANTLY, KILLED THEM. *

*SUPERMAN #22

SUPERMAN WAS JUDGE, JURY AND EXECUTIONER!

I KNEW IT! HE'S A LOOSE CANNON POINTED AT HUMANITY!

NO. HE LEARNED FROM THAT EXPERIENCE AND FOUND THAT HE IS INCAPABLE OF KILLING AGAIN.

WHAT ELSE DID YOU GET? WHERE DOES HE GO? WHAT DOES HE DO?

MY APOLOGIES, BUT OUR LINK WAS SEVERED BEFORE I COULD PROBE FURTHER.

TOO BAD! BUT WE *STILL* HAVE ENOUGH FOR A CONGRESSIONAL REPORT THAT WILL BLOW SUPERMAN RIGHT OUT OF THE SKIES!

FORTUNATELY, THE COMPUTER THAT RECORDED DUBBILEX'S DISCOVERIES SURVIVED THE ASSAULT!

I DON'T THINK SO, WESTFIELD.

KEERASHH

ARE YOU *NUTS?!* I STILL HAVE THE INFO IN MY *HEAD!*

AND YOU'RE *THROUGH*, HARPER! I'M GOING TO *COURT MARTIAL* YOUR BUTT FROM HERE TO--

FINE WITH ME, WESTFIELD ... AND I'LL BE SATISFIED THAT DURING MY TRIAL--

--THE WORLD WILL FIND OUT YOUR DIRTY LITTLE SECRET FROM THE VIETNAM WAR!

WHU--WHU-- H-HOW...

WHILE IN YOUR OFFICE I PROBED YOUR MIND AND FOUND THAT YOU KILLED YOUR UNIT COMMANDER TO SAVE YOUR FELLOW SOLDIERS.

HE HAD CRACKED AND WAS LEADING YOU ALL TO SLAUGHTER.

LOOK-- I NEVER WANTED TO-- BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY.

MY ACTIONS-- MY *CRIME*-- MEANS FIFTEEN MEN ARE STILL ALIVE TODAY!

YOUR MOTIVES WERE NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM SUPERMAN'S. ARE YOU THE THREAT YOU FEAR *HE* IS?

MAYBE... YOU'RE RIGHT. OKAY--

"--I'LL BACK OFF. FOR AS LONG AS HE WANTS IT, SUPERMAN OWNS METROPOLIS!"

--SO THAT'S WHY CADMUS WAS AFTER YOU, SUPERMAN.

WESTFIELD TRULY THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE A DANGER.

IF THAT SHOULD EVER HAPPEN, BATMAN KNOWS WHAT TO DO.

THANK THE HAIRIES AGAIN FOR ME. IF THEY HADN'T INTERCEDED, PEOPLE I LOVE WOULD'VE BEEN DISCOVERED AND HURT.

WELL, THEY'RE SAFE NOW.

I WIPED THE COMPUTER FILES CLEAN AND WESTFIELD, DUBBILEX AND I WILL CARRY YOUR SECRET TO OUR GRAVES!

YOU AND DUBBILEX WERE IN ON THIS, WEREN'T YOU?

YOU TWO HELPED THE HAIRIES ALL ALONG!

YEAH. I SET IT ALL UP SO THEY COULD FREE YOU WITH MINIMAL INTERFERENCE.

THIS WAY I CAN STAY AT CADMUS AND KEEP MY EYE ON THINGS!

THANKS, YOU REALLY PUT YOURSELF ON THE LINE FOR ME!

"HEY, YOU'RE SUPERMAN! IF WE CAN'T TRUST YOU--

"--WHO CAN WE TRUST?"

end

THE BIG DRAIN!

TOM GRUMMETT - PENCILLER ★ DOUG HAZLEWOOD - INKER
JERRY ORDWAY - WRITER ★ GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER ★ DAN THORSLAND - ASST. EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

DON'T PULL AWAY DON'T PULL AWAY DON'T PULL AWAY!

IT PULLED AWAY.

SHOOT! I MISSED MY TRAIN!

SUPERMAN Created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster

I CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS MY APPOINTMENT WITH NEWSTIME MAGAZINE, AND THE NEXT TRAIN'S IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!!

WHY'D I HAVE HAVE TO STOP FOR THIS STINKING PAPER?!

STUPID RAG IS STILL SCREWING UP MY LIFE!

MAYBE--JUST MAYBE--I CAN STILL CATCH A BUS...

...THOUGH IT MEANS WASTING MY LAST TOKEN!

"WHY COULDN'T I HAVE JUST CAUGHT THAT BLASTED TRAIN?"

LITTERBUGS--I HATE LITTERBUGS.

WELL, NO MATTER-- I GOT ME A TRAIN TO CATCH...

ALWAYS EXPECT SOMEONE ELSE TO PICK UP AFTER THEM!

ZZZAKKK

WE'RE SLOWING DOWN-- WHAT GIVES?

"...PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO EAT..."

THE POWER'S GONE!

SOMEONE'S OUT THERE!

WRRRANK!

GOOD BREAD...

...GOOD MEAT...

...GOOD GOD...

"...LET'S EAT!"

WHAT A WEEK IT'S BEEN, CLARK!

BREAKFAST SPECIAL! CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST $6.50, JUNIOR!

I'LL BITE!

I KNOW, LOIS.

THE CITY'S STILL CLEANING UP AFTER THE ERADICATOR'S RETURN, AND BOMBINGS BY THAT TERRORIST GROUP CERBERUS.*

AT LEAST YOUR FOLKS ARE HAVING A GOOD TIME ON THEIR CRUISE.

*AS SEEN IN RECENT ISSUES OF THE SUPERMAN TITLES.

THAT POSTCARD THEY SENT SAID THEY'RE HAVING A BALL WITH PERRY AND ALICE WHITE IN SPITE OF THE BAD WEATHER...

IT WAS A STROKE OF GENIUS, GETTING THOSE TWO COUPLES TOGETHER, DON'T YOU THINK?

I THANK GOD THEY DIDN'T *FIRE* YOU TWO FROM THE DAILY PLANET! MY BUSINESS HAS BEEN TERRIBLE, WHAT WITH ALL THE *LAY-OFFS*.

REFILL YOUR CUPS?

SURE, DOOLEY.

NONE FOR ME.

WHOSE *BONE*-HEADED IDEA WAS IT TO GET RID OF ALL THOSE PEOPLE, ANYWAYS?

:*AHEM*:! WHAT DOES A PERSON HAVE TO *DO* TO GET A CUP OF *COFFEE* IN THIS PLACE?

THANKS FOR A HEARTY BREAKFAST, DOOLEY!

'MORNING, KENT--LANE...

UH-HUH. SEE YOU IN THE BULLPEN, SAM.

AHHH, AT *LAST*--OH NO.

SORRY, PAL. I'LL HAVE TO BREW UP A FRESH POT.

:SIGH:

WAS *THAT* DELIBERATE?

DO THEY ALL HATE ME BECAUSE I *FIRED* PEOPLE...

"...OR IS IT JUST BECAUSE I FIRED THAT OLSEN KID?"

I JUST DON'T BELIEVE MY LUCK!

WHILE THEY ARGUE OVER WHOSE *FAULT* THIS IS, I'M MISSING MY INTERVIEW!

GUESS *THIS* IS WHY THEY CALL IT "POUNDING THE PAVEMENT."

HI, MY NAME IS RONALD TROUPE.

I *DON'T* HAVE AN APPOINTMENT, BUT I HEARD YOU WERE INTERVIEWING FOR AN EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, AND I THOUGHT...

...'THOUGH HIS *FIRST* INTERVIEW HASN'T SHOWN YET...

I'M SORRY, BUT MR. THORNTON IS BOOKED *SOLID* ALL DAY...

WSTIME

MAYBE I COULD LEAVE A COPY OF MY RESUME?

BLZZT

HOLD ON.

YES, MR. T? NO, UM, I MEAN, YES, YOUR 9 O'CLOCK *IS* HERE.

YES, I'M SENDING HIM IN.

THANK YOU.

COLIN THORNTON

GOOD MORNING, SIR. MY NAME IS RONALD TROUPE, AND, UM, HERE'S MY RESUME.

HMM. I THOUGHT MY NEXT INTERVIEW WAS *OLSEN*. OH WELL--HAVE A SEAT, YOUNG MAN.

MMMM, IMPRESSIVE. HOWARD UNIVERSITY IS A GREAT SCHOOL. YOU WERE EDITOR OF THE SCHOOL PAPER? GOOD, GOOD.

THIS TOWN'S HAD ENOUGH

THORNTON FOR MAYOR

AS YOU CAN SEE, SIR, I SERVED SEVERAL INTERNSHIPS, INCLUDING ONE AT THE DAILY--

KNOK KNOK

MR. THORNTON! SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT I WANT TO RUN THE CLOSING LINE OF YOUR SPEECH PAST YOU...

"MAYOR BERKOWITZ HAS POSITIONED HIMSELF AS THE EXPERT NAVIGATOR CAPABLE OF STEERING THIS CITY OUT OF *ROUGH WATERS*..."

"...BUT WHAT METROPOLIS NEEDS IS A NEW CAPTAIN AT THE HELM, TO GUIDE--"

I DON'T WANT TO JOIN A *YACHT* CLUB, MAN--I WANT TO BE MAYOR OF THIS CITY!

QUITE FRANKLY, I *HATE* THE WHOLE "ROUGH WATERS" APPROACH!

AHEM. EXCUSE ME, BUT HOW ABOUT...

"FRANK BERKOWITZ CLAIMS TO BE *EXPERT* AT THE PROBLEMS OF METROPOLIS..."

"...WELL, I'VE ALWAYS HEARD THAT AN *EXPERT* IS SOMEONE WHO KNOWS *MORE AND MORE* ABOUT *LESS AND LESS*."

UH, I'M SORRY--I BLEW IT, DIDN'T I?

IT'S GOOD TO HEAR SOMEONE WHO'S NOT AFRAID TO OFFER AN HONEST OPINION!

YOU'RE A QUICK THINKER, RONALD. A WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU!

I THINK YOU'RE THE MAN FOR THIS ASSISTANT'S JOB ON NEWSTIME-MAGAZINE.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I MADE IT! A LITTLE LATE, BUT I MADE IT.

EXCUSE ME, BUT DO YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT...?

OLSEN, JAMES. I'M INTERVIEWING FOR--

THANK YOU, MR. THORNTON.

SEE YOU NEXT MONDAY, RONALD.

GUESS I MISSED MY CHANCE.

I'M SORRY--ANOTHER JOB WILL OPEN UP SOON...

STORY OF MY LIFE, LADY! 'JUST MY LUCK...

"...TO HAVE MISSED THAT SUBWAY TRAIN"!

WELL! YOU BEAT ME TO THE SCENE, HENDERSON!

ACTUALLY, CAPTAIN SAWYER-- I PUT IN THE CALL TO S.C.U.*

YOU PEOPLE ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THIS SORT OF MESS!

POLICE LINE DO NOT

DO NOT CROSS

*SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT.

HMMM-- NO REPORTED BREAKOUTS AT STRYKER'S PRISON...

MAYBE IT'S *NOT* A LOCAL YOKEL. CHECK SOME *OTHER* MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITIES...

...PERHAPS A CALL TO BELLE REVE?

DON'T TELL ME MY JOB, BILL. FIRST WE NEED THE LAB BOYS TO EXAMINE THESE CORPSES...

SORRY, MAGGIE. I GUESS WE CAN AGREE ON ONE THING...

"...THAT THIS IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!"

...I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TALK TO LANA ABOUT. THANKS.

THIS IS A JOB FOR YOU, KENT.

"DEATH TRAIN ON THE 'R' LINE." YOU'LL GET FRONT PAGE IF IT'S IN MY HANDS BY TWO!

MORE DEATH ON THE FRONT PAGE?

I'VE ALREADY SENT GUS TO GET SOME GOOD PICTURES.

DAILY CITY

THE DAILY PLANET IS A DIFFERENT PAPER WITHOUT PERRY WHITE AT THE HELM!

STAIRS→

DOES THIS CITY NEED ANOTHER SENSATIONALIST TABLOID?

NEXT THING YOU KNOW, SAM FOSWELL WILL BE PRINTING LEX LUTHOR AND ELVIS PRESLEY SIGHTINGS!

THERE ARE A LOT OF POLICE CARS ON THE SCENE.

I'LL SCAN AHEAD WITH MY X-RAY VISION...

AMBULANCE

HEY! LOOK, IT'S HIM...

GOOD GOD--NO.

WHERE WAS HE WHEN THIS HAPPENED?

WHAT IN THE WORLD?

IT'S SUPERMAN, YOU DOPE!

THIS IS TERRIBLE.

THE SMELL OF DEATH IS JUST HANGING IN THIS TUNNEL--CHOKING ME...

CAPTAIN SAWYER--WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

MAGGIE-- BILL.

GLAD YOU'RE HERE, SUPERMAN.

PREPARE YOURSELF-- THIS IS NOT A PRETTY SIGHT...

...THOUGH, I HATE TO ADMIT IT *IS* A SIGHT THAT'S BECOME MORE COMMON IN METROPOLIS, *LATELY.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR CITY?

NE

LOSE WEIGHT FAST

I-- DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN *LAX*-- BUT HOW--?

YOU DO *MORE* THAN ANYONE COULD *ASK*, SUPERMAN-- IT'S NOT *YOU*...

MY *INFRA-RED* VISION'S PICKED UP A FAINT IMAGE...

...IT'S BAD EVERYWHERE...

...EVERY URBAN AREA ACROSS THE NATION IS EXPERIENCING IT.

I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT, BILL.

METROPOLIS DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE *EVERYWHERE* ELSE.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I'VE GOT A TRAIL TO FOLLOW...

"...A TRAIL BLAZED WITH INNOCENT VICTIMS!

WHO COULD DO A THING LIKE THIS?

THIS LOOKS LIKE THE WORK OF THE SILVER BANSHEE, BUT THE INFRA-RED IMAGE I'M SEEING DOESN'T MATCH HER APPEARANCE...

Daily Pl

SO MANY DEAD...

...SIX CARS FULL OF LIFELESS HUSKS.

IMAGE IS GETTING STRONGER...

THAT RETAINING WALL *USED* TO HELP SUPPORT THIS TUNNEL!

IF THAT KILLER IS JUST BLINDLY SMASHING THROUGH SUPPORTING WALLS...

...AND HE, OR *IT* HAS STRAYED FROM THESE TRACKS.

"...THE ENTIRE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE CITY COULD BE AFFECTED!"

I KNOW WE HAVE TO LIVE IN WASHINGTON, DC BECAUSE OF YOUR WORK, PETE...

...BUT I WISH WE COULD HAVE FOUND A *NICER* PLACE TO LIVE...

WE WERE JUST LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND *TWO* APARTMENTS IN THE *SAME* BUILDING, LANA.

:SIGH: I GUESS WE HAVE TO MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS TO BE *NEAR* EACH OTHER.

SPEAKING OF BEING NEAR--

--HOW 'BOUT COMING OVER FOR A MOVIE ON CABLE?

GEE, I DON'T KNOW--IT'S AN AWFULLY *LONG* WAY TO WALK!

GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES.

YESIREE! PETER ROSS, YOU ARE ONE LUCKY GUY!

HMMM, MESSAGE ON MY ANSWERING MACHINE!

EEEP--IS CLARK KENT, PETE. I'M STILL TRYING TO GET HOLD OF LANA...

...I KNOW SHE WANTED ME TO BACK OFF, BUT I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TALK TO LANA ABOUT. THANKS. :CLIC:

HE WANTS HER TO HEAR IT FROM HIS OWN LIPS--

HUH?

--THAT HE'S ENGAGED TO LOIS LANE.

WHAT'S--

UH, *NOTHING*, NOTHING AT ALL...

YOU DON'T NEED TO COVER UP--IT WAS CLARK *AGAIN*, WASN'T IT?

I WILL--WHEN *I'M READY* TO. NOW SIT DOWN. THE MOVIE'S STARTING.

UHH, YEAH, THE *MOVIE*! WHAT'RE WE WATCHING?

WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO HIM?

IT'S ABOUT A JANITOR WHO GETS DOUSED IN RADIOACTIVE WASTE AND BECOMES A SUPER-HERO!

RADIOACTIVE REVENGE

"GEE, THAT'S KIND OF A STRETCH, DON'T YOU THINK?"

ALL THIS ACTIVITY IS TIRING ME OUT...

KRASH

WHERE WILL I GET THE *ENERGY* TO PULL MY SHIFT AT THE BIG BELLY BURGER?

WAITAMINUTE-- *THAT'S* NOT MY MEMORY! MUST'VE *ABSORBED* IT FROM ONE OF THE SPUDS ON THAT SUBWAY!

AH!

I KNOW WHAT I NEED!

ANOTHER BIG, JUICY JOLT OF THIRD RAIL!!

I THINK YOU'VE HAD *ENOUGH*!

WHUP?

I DON'T KNOW *WHO* THE HELL YOU *ARE*, BUT YOU'VE GOT A *LOT* OF DEATHS TO ANSWER FOR!

SUPERMAN! BOY, AM I GLAD YOU CAME ALONG...

THOSE OTHERS WEREN'T VERY *SATISFYING*...

...BUT YOU I COULD REALLY SINK MY TEETH INTO!

YOU'RE A REGULAR "ALL YOU CAN EAT" BUFFET!

HMMM-- MAYBE ONE MORE HELPING!

YOU'LL EXCUSE ME IF I EAT AND RUN, BUT I ONLY GET A HALF-HOUR FOR LUNCH!

UHHHHHH

WHAT THE DEVIL--?

WAVES OF NAUSEA...

AND THERE'RE PLENTY OF JERKS I WANT TO THROTTLE, NOW THAT I'M ALL JUICED-UP!

LATER, LOIS!

URP! A LITTLE OF YOUR MEMORY'S COMING UP ON ME!

GRUM-BLE

WHAT WAS THAT CRACK ABOUT MY MEMORIES? UHHHN...

CRUNCH

I'M AS WEAK AS A PUPPY-- BUT I'VE *GOT* TO KEEP ON HIM...

WHOA! HAVE TO BE CAREFUL, OR I'LL CAUSE THE CAVE-IN MYSELF!

YOU ARE *NOT* WALKING AWAY FROM THIS, SLIMEBALL!

SNEAKIN' UP ON ME FROM BEHIND AFTER I WAS *NICE* ENOUGH TO LEAVE YOU WITH *SOME* OF YOUR POWER?

YOU'RE BEGGING ME TO BLEED YOU DRY!

MAYBE I *OUGHT* TO KEEP YOU AROUND ME ALL OF THE TIME-- AS A HANDY *POWERLUNCH*?

GUESS IT'S LUCKY FOR YOU THAT I'M NOT *SMART* ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY *HOW* TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN, EH?

HAD TO LET GO OF HIM--I COULD *FEEL* MY STRENGTH DRAINING OUT OF ME.

WHAT ARE YOU AFTER? WHY'D YOU KILL ALL THOSE PEOPLE?

I DON'T KNOW! 'CAUSE THEY WERE THERE?

WHA?

MY EYES ARE-- BURNING?

OHHH, I ALMOST FORGOT... I HAVE ALL OF YOUR POWERS, INCLUDING HEAT VISION!

HEY! I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW TO SHUT THIS--

--OOFF!

WAP

LET ME HELP!

THANKS. NOW'RE YOU GONNA LET ME ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

WHOMP

!WOOF!

I CAN "EAT" ELECTRICAL ENERGY TO KEEP ME GOING, BUT IT'S KIND OF BLAND...

I ABSORB YOUR AVERAGE JOE'S ENERGY, *AND* I GET FLASHES OF THEIR MEMORIES, TO BOOT!

MAKES ME FEEL *CLOSER* TO THEM-- IT'S NOT SO IMPERSONAL...

THAT SUPPORT COLUMN!

YOU'VE UNDERMINED THIS ENTIRE STRUCTURE...

WHAT--DO I LOOK LIKE AN *ARCHITECT*? *DO SOMETHING!*

I'LL GET *HELP!* YEAH, YEAH, *SURE!*

"I'M OUTTA HERE!"

THAT LOUSY--!

I *KNEW* THIS WOULD HAPPEN--THOSE TREMORS THAT THE ERADICATOR CAUSED LAST WEEK* DIDN'T *HELP* MUCH, EITHER!

I *PRAY* THAT I HAVE ENOUGH POWER LEFT TO SHORE UP THIS MAIN BEAM BEFORE IT CRUMBLES TO PIECES!

GOT TO HOLD IT ABSOLUTELY STILL, TO KEEP THE OVERHEAD TRUSSES FROM SPLINTERING...

*IN ALL FOUR SUPERMAN TITLES LAST MONTH!

STEADY-- STEADY, THERE!

THESE STEEL GIRDERS THAT SHOOK LOOSE WON'T DO IT ALONE...

...BUT IF I CAN "SISTER" THEM TOGETHER AND MUSTER ENOUGH *HEAT VISION* TO *WELD* THEM...

...IT *MAY* JUST HOLD--TEMPORARILY, WHILE I REINFORCE ALL THE *OTHER* COLUMNS THAT WERE DAMAGED, IN THE SAME WAY!

AND WHILE I DO MY CIVIC DUTY, A *KILLER* ROAMS FREE!

"I FEEL LIKE I FAILED!"

YOU DID *GOOD*, KENT! WE BEAT ALL THE OTHER PAPERS TO THE PUNCH!

Daily Planet

SUBWAY DEATH

DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF, CLARK. SUPERMAN WILL GET THIS GUY--HE ALWAYS DOES!

THAT'D PROBABLY RUIN SAM FOSWELL'S DAY.

Planet

WAY DEATH

"SERIAL KILLERS ARE GOOD FOR CIRCULATION, AREN'T THEY?"

"I ESCAPED A RIDE ON THE *DEATH TRAIN*," BY JAMES OLSEN! HMMM.

ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'D BETTER USE MY NOM DE PLUME, JOCK O. RUBY. THIS WILL, AFTER ALL, APPEAR IN "THE *TATTLER*..."

...ALONGSIDE STORIES LIKE "BIGFOOT HAS LEX LUTHOR'S BABY."

"GLAD TO HEAR YOU'RE ALIVE..."

"I Escaped a Ride on th
by
Jock O. Ruby
'as rush hour precisely t
roughout Metropolis were r
was the day that 120 of thes
fro. And I was almost one of
And for once I can call that
O. Ruby's lucky number. Of c
blah blah blah blah bl
's the day that 120 of

LOOK, AMANDA, I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR DOING THIS FOR ME. NO ONE AT BELLE REVE PRISON WOULD GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT.

HOW COULD I NOT HELP, MAGGIE... THERE'VE BEEN ENOUGH CASUALTIES!

MY SOURCES TELL ME THAT THERE *WAS* A BREAKOUT ATTEMPT THERE.

"AN INMATE NAMED RUDY JONES TRIED TO ESCAPE MAXIMUM SECURITY, BUT WAS REPORTEDLY KILLED BY THE GUARDS..."

PETER SHOEMAKER MEMORIAL SHELTER

"RUDY JONES, A.K.A. "THE PARASITE"?

"BINGO!"

TO BE CONTINUED IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #482 AND THROUGHOUT THE SUPERMAN LINE OF COMICS! BE HERE!

the GHOST of LUTHOR

ROGER STERN WRITER / BOB McLEOD PENCILLER / DENIS RODIER INKER / BILL OAKLEY LETTERER / GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST / DAN THORSLAND ASSISTANT / [illegible]RKE EDITOR / JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER CREATORS

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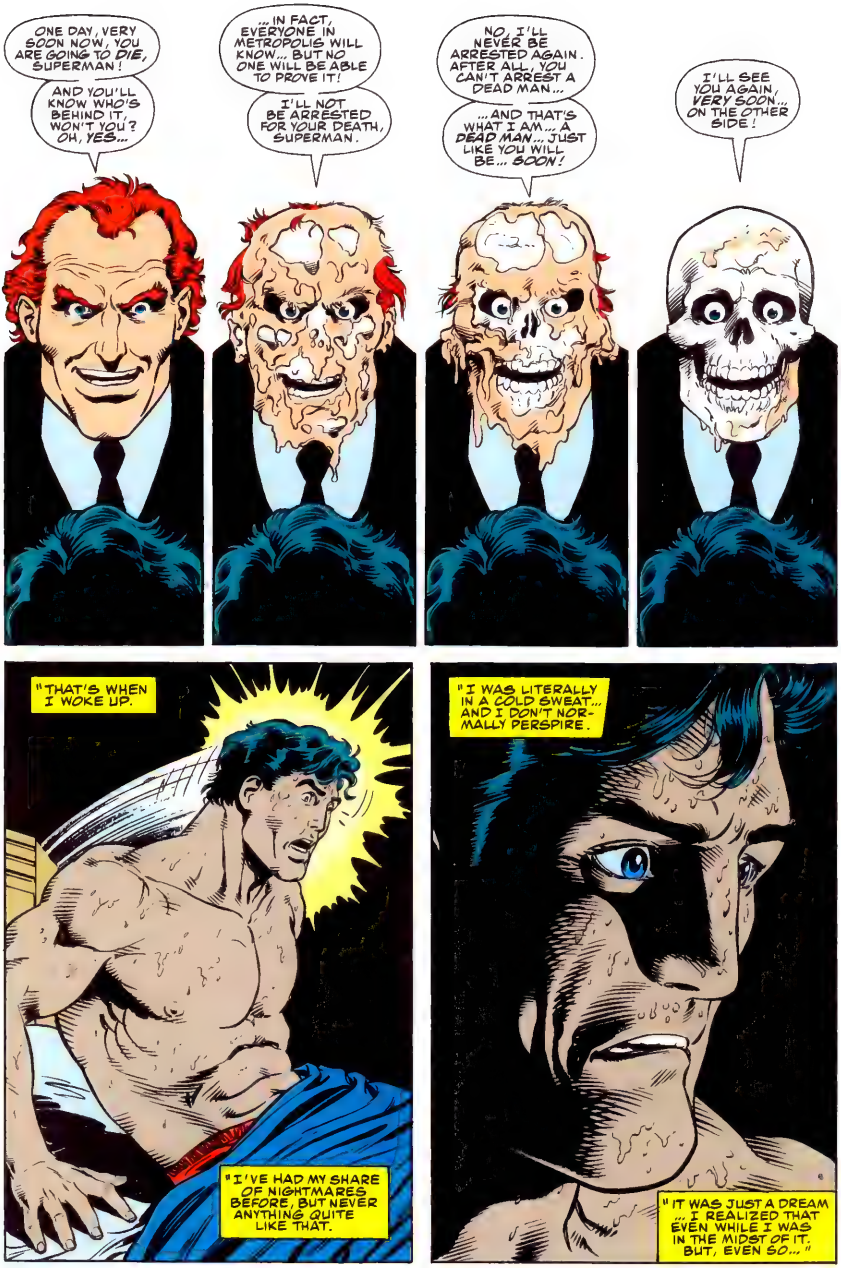
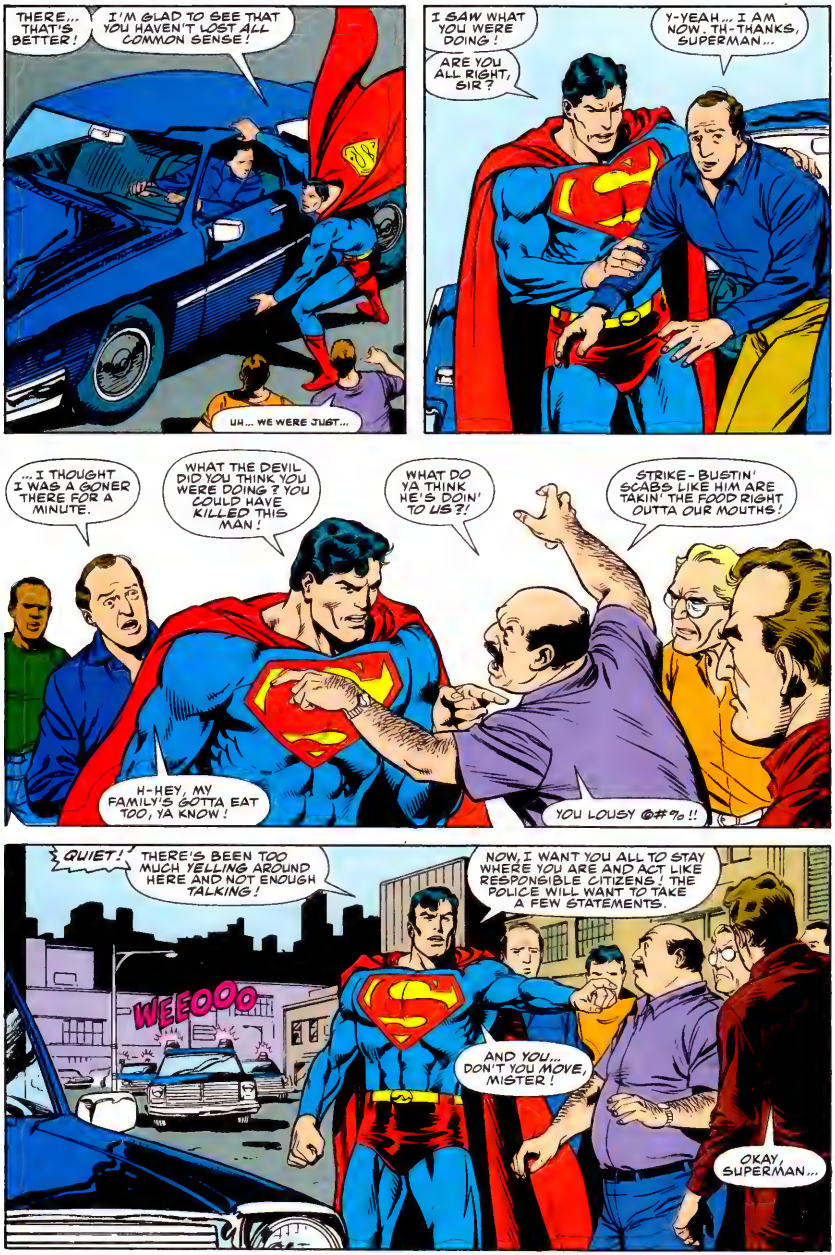
YOU COULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO FOOLISH AS TO THINK THAT I WOULD STOP BEING A THREAT.., JUST BECAUSE I WAS DYING?!
A DYING MAN, AFTER ALL, HAS NOTHING TO LOSE.
AND I STILL HAVE PLENTY OF KRYPTONITE UP MY SLEEVE!
NO! NO, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE!
;UHH-UGH;
NO...
DOES IT HURT, LITTLE MAN?
DO YOU FEEL THE ICY GRIP OF DEATH CLOSING IN ON YOU?
GOOD!
YOU WERE THE DEATH OF ME, SUPERMAN... IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I RETURN THE FAVOR!

NOOOO!!
THIS... CAN'T BE HAPPENING. IT MUST BE... SOME BAD DREAM.
GREAT TRUTHS CAN BE FOUND IN DREAMS.
I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU, SUPERMAN.
I RUN METROPOLIS ... THE CITY BELONGS TO ME.
ITS PEOPLE ARE MINE... TO NURTURE, OR DESTROY, AS I SEE FIT!
BUT THEY'VE FORGOTTEN THAT.
THEY'VE LOOKED AT YOU-- WITH YOUR COS-TUME AND YOUR FLASHY POWERS--
--AND THEY'VE FORGOTTEN WHO THEIR REAL MASTER IS!
WELL, I INTEND TO REMIND THEM, SUPERMAN. I'M GOING TO SHOW THEM THAT YOU'RE NOTHING.

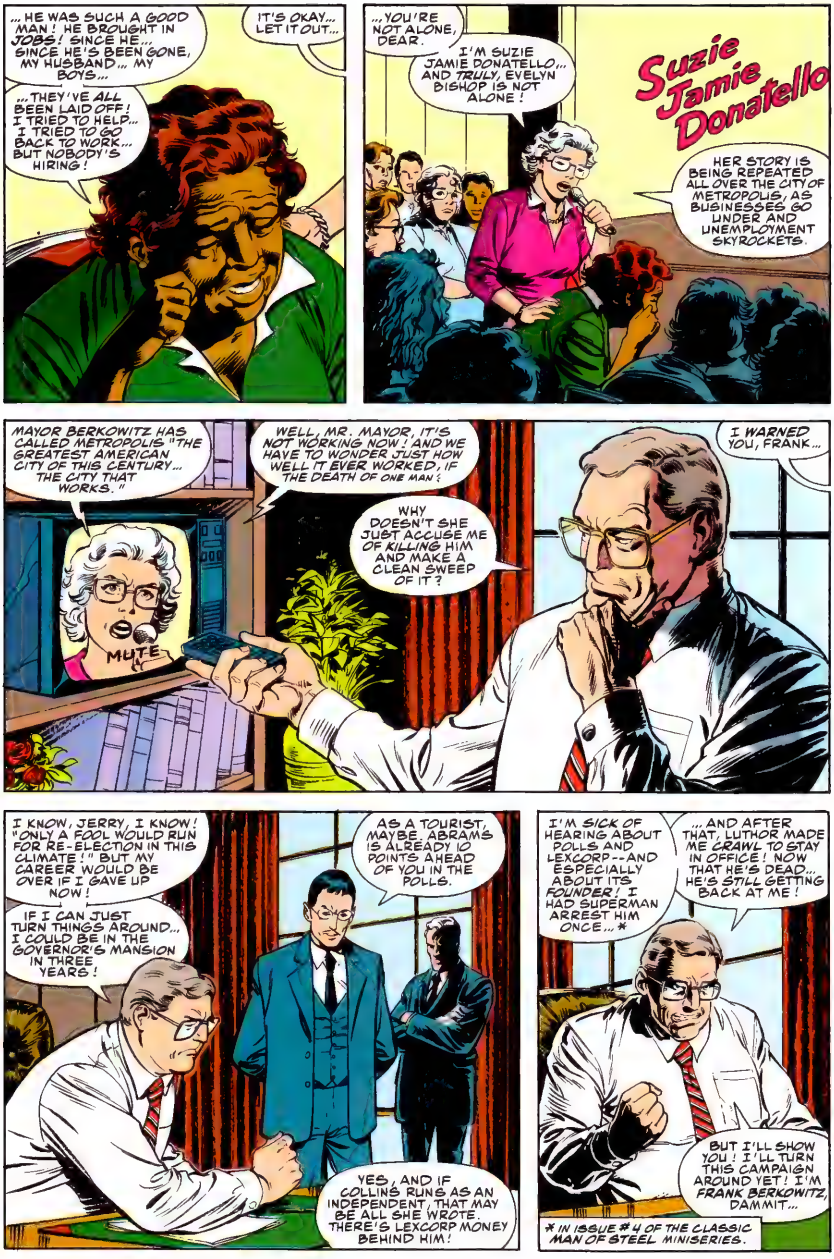

ONE DAY, VERY SOON NOW, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE, SUPERMAN!
AND YOU'LL KNOW WHO'S BEHIND IT, WON'T YOU? OH, YES...
...IN FACT, EVERYONE IN METROPOLIS WILL KNOW... BUT NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO PROVE IT!
I'LL NOT BE ARRESTED FOR YOUR DEATH, SUPERMAN.
NO, I'LL NEVER BE ARRESTED AGAIN. AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T ARREST A DEAD MAN...
...AND THAT'S WHAT I AM... A DEAD MAN... JUST LIKE YOU WILL BE... SOON!
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, VERY SOON... ON THE OTHER SIDE!
"THAT'S WHEN I WOKE UP.
"I'VE HAD MY SHARE OF NIGHTMARES BEFORE, BUT NEVER ANYTHING QUITE LIKE THAT.
"I WAS LITERALLY IN A COLD SWEAT... AND I DON'T NORMALLY PERSPIRE.
"IT WAS JUST A DREAM ... I REALIZED THAT EVEN WHILE I WAS IN THE MIDST OF IT. BUT, EVEN SO..."

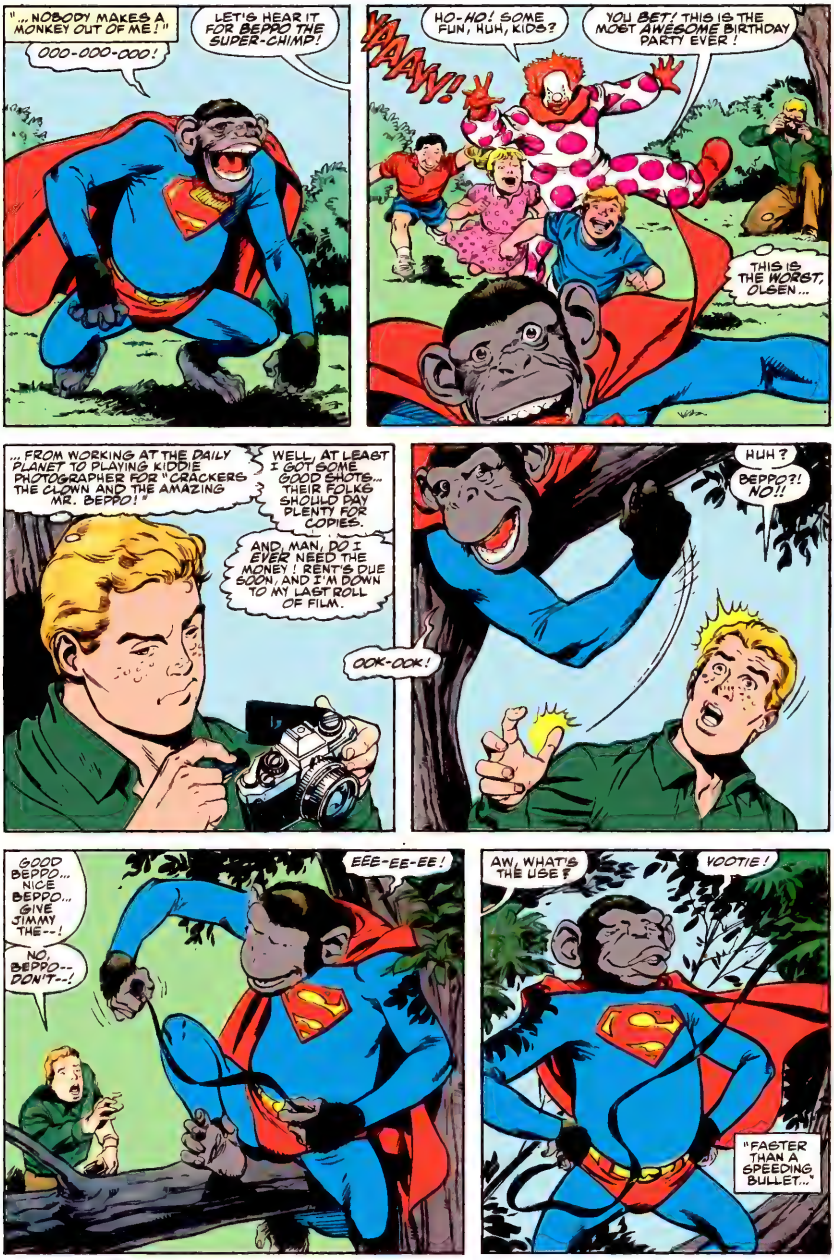
...I COULDN'T GET BACK TO SLEEP.
I FLEW AROUND THE WORLD TO CLEAR MY HEAD, BUT IT WAS NO USE.
NO WONDER YOU LOOKED SO WILD-EYED THIS MORNING. HONEY, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME BY MY PLACE EARLIER?
I DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE YOU. WHY SHOULD YOU SUFFER A SLEEPLESS NIGHT JUST BECAUSE I HAD A BAD DREAM?
CLARK, WE ARE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED. IT'S TIME WE STARTED SHARING THE GOOD AND THE BAD.
I DON'T MIND LOSING A LITTLE SLEEP FOR YOU. ANYWAY...
...YOU SHOULDN'T LET THAT DREAM BOTHER YOU ANY FURTHER. LUTHOR'S DEAD NOW. HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO SPOIL OUR HAPPINESS.
YOU'RE RIGHT, LOIS.
DREAMS ARE FUNNY, THOUGH... SOMETHING IN MY SUBCONSCIOUS MUST HAVE TRIGGERED THE MEMORY OF THE FIRST TIME LUTHOR THREATENED ME...
...IT WAS SO VIVID. I--!
CLARK?
WHAT'S WRONG?
SIRENS... ABOUT TWELVE BLOCKS AWAY...
"...THERE'S TROUBLE 'CROSS TOWN."
LOUSY, STINKIN' SCAB!
DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
PIZZA
ON STRIKE
ON STRIKE
ON STRIKE
YOU'RE GONNA PAY, SCAB!

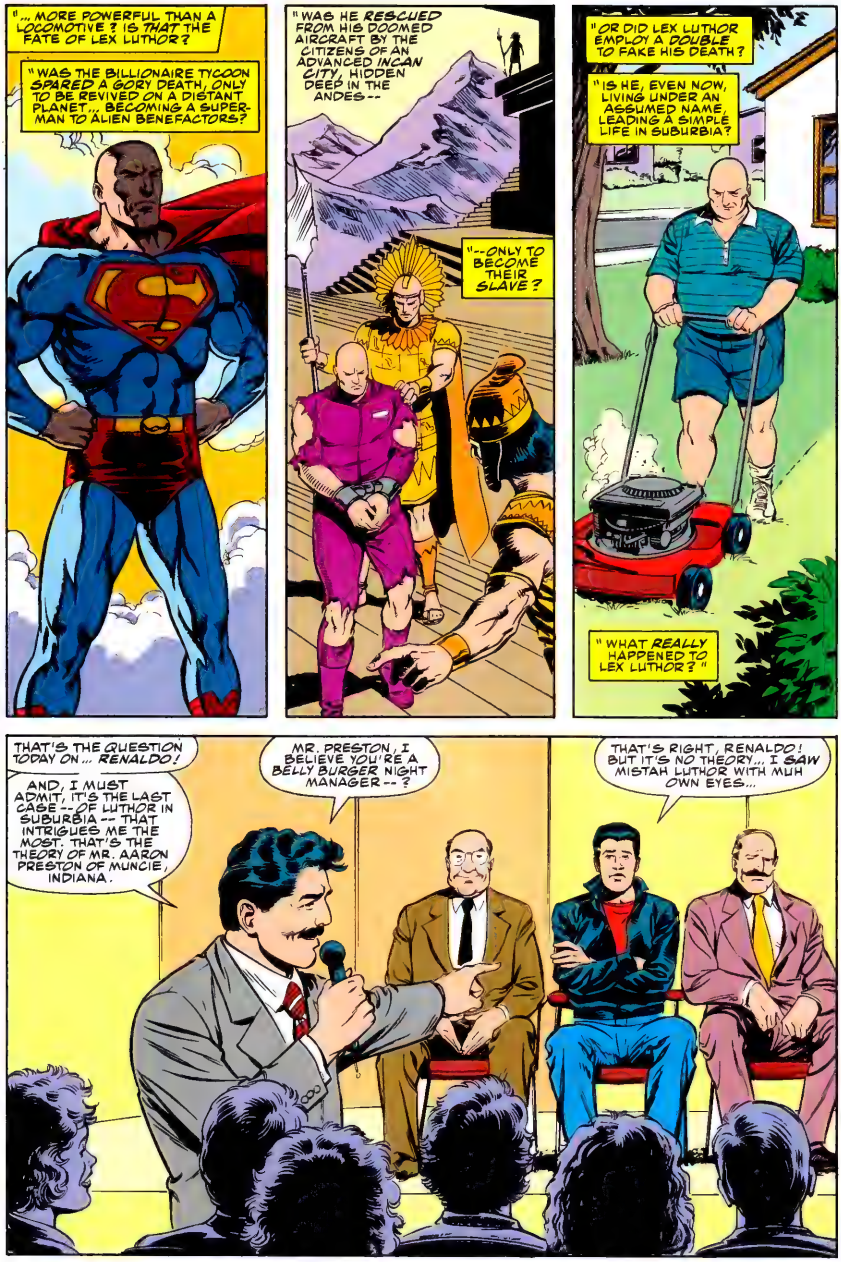
STEAL OUR JOBS, WILL YA?
C'MON, PUT YER BACKS INTO IT!
O-VER! O-VER! O-VER!!
NO... DON'T... PLEASE!
ON STRIKE
PIZZA
ON STRIKE
ON STRIKE
ON STRIKE
O-VER! O-VER?
WHAT THE--?!
OMIGOD.
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY-- BACK OFF!!
AND COOL OFF!
NOW... I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU CLEAR THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET!
ON STRIKE TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 125
ON STRIKE


THERE... THAT'S BETTER!
I'M GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU HAVEN'T LOST ALL COMMON SENSE!
UH... WE WERE JUST...
I SAW WHAT YOU WERE DOING!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
Y-YEAH... I AM NOW. TH-THANKS, SUPERMAN...
...I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER THERE FOR A MINUTE.
WHAT THE DEVIL DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING? YOU COULD HAVE KILLED THIS MAN!
H-HEY, MY FAMILY'S GOTTA EAT TOO, YA KNOW!
WHAT DO YA THINK HE'S DOIN' TO US?!
STRIKE-BUSTIN' SCABS LIKE HIM ARE TAKIN' THE FOOD RIGHT OUTTA OUR MOUTHS!
YOU LOUSY @#%!!
QUIET!
THERE'S BEEN TOO MUCH YELLING AROUND HERE AND NOT ENOUGH TALKING!
WEEOOO
NOW, I WANT YOU ALL TO STAY WHERE YOU ARE AND ACT LIKE RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS! THE POLICE WILL WANT TO TAKE A FEW STATEMENTS.
AND YOU... DON'T YOU MOVE, MISTER!
OKAY, SUPERMAN...

"... WE'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY."
... YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...
UH-HUH, AND THEN--?
THEY SURROUNDED ME! I WANTED TO BACK UP AND GET OUTTA THERE, BUT THEY WOULDN'T LET ME!
YEAH, THAT'S IT... YOU'VE DONE YER DIRTY WORK, NOW FLY AWAY! NO-GOOD SCAB-LOVIN' FINK!
HEY, YOU'RE OUTTA LINE, MAN...
... SUPERMAN SAVED MY COUSIN'S LIFE ONCE! HE'S ONE O' THE GOOD ONES!
OH, YEAH? WELL, IF HE'S SO GREAT--
--WHY AIN'T HE DOIN' SOMETHIN' ABOUT OUR GRIPES? LEX LUTHOR WOULDA! LUTHOR...
... NOW, THERE WAS A HERO! HE MIGHTA BEEN A BOSS, BUT HE MADE THINGS RUN RIGHT! THIS TOWN AIN'T BEEN WORTH SPIT SINCE HE DIED.
A HERO... HE CALLED LUTHOR A HERO.
LUTHOR WOULD HAVE CHEWED HIM UP AND SPIT HIM OUT... JUST FOR THE "FUN" OF IT.
HEAVEN HELP US, IF THEY ALL THINK THAT WAY.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED. MOST PEOPLE WERE UNAWARE OF LUTHOR'S MALEVOLENT SIDE.
THEY SAW HIM AS AN EMPLOYER, A BENEFACTOR. HE WAS A BIG PART OF THIS CITY FOR SO MANY YEARS...
"... LOTS OF FOLKS DON'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE 'FORE MR. LUTHOR GOT HIS COMPANIES GOIN'..."


...HE WAS SUCH A GOOD MAN! HE BROUGHT IN JOBS! SINCE HE... SINCE HE'S BEEN GONE, MY HUSBAND... MY BOYS...
IT'S OKAY... LET IT OUT...
...THEY'VE ALL BEEN LAID OFF! I TRIED TO HELP... I TRIED TO GO BACK TO WORK... BUT NOBODY'S HIRING!
...YOU'RE NOT ALONE, DEAR.
I'M SUZIE JAMIE DONATELLO... AND TRULY, EVELYN BISHOP IS NOT ALONE!
Suzie Jamie Donatello
HER STORY IS BEING REPEATED ALL OVER THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, AS BUSINESSES GO UNDER AND UNEMPLOYMENT SKYROCKETS.
MAYOR BERKOWITZ HAS CALLED METROPOLIS "THE GREATEST AMERICAN CITY OF THIS CENTURY... THE CITY THAT WORKS."
MUTE
WELL, MR. MAYOR, IT'S NOT WORKING NOW! AND WE HAVE TO WONDER JUST HOW WELL IT EVER WORKED, IF THE DEATH OF ONE MAN:
WHY DOESN'T SHE JUST ACCUSE ME OF KILLING HIM AND MAKE A CLEAN SWEEP OF IT?
I WARNED YOU, FRANK...
I KNOW, JERRY, I KNOW! "ONLY A FOOL WOULD RUN FOR RE-ELECTION IN THIS CLIMATE!" BUT MY CAREER WOULD BE OVER IF I GAVE UP NOW!
IF I CAN JUST TURN THINGS AROUND... I COULD BE IN THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION IN THREE YEARS!
AS A TOURIST, MAYBE. ABRAMS IS ALREADY 10 POINTS AHEAD OF YOU IN THE POLLS.
YES, AND IF COLLINS RUNS AS AN INDEPENDENT, THAT MAY BE ALL SHE WROTE. THERE'S LEXCORP MONEY BEHIND HIM!
I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT POLLS AND LEXCORP--AND ESPECIALLY ABOUT ITS FOUNDER! I HAD SUPERMAN ARREST HIM ONCE...*
...AND AFTER THAT, LUTHOR MADE ME CRAWL TO STAY IN OFFICE! NOW THAT HE'S DEAD... HE'S STILL GETTING BACK AT ME!
BUT I'LL SHOW YOU! I'LL TURN THIS CAMPAIGN AROUND YET! I'M FRANK BERKOWITZ, DAMMIT...
* IN ISSUE #4 OF THE CLASSIC MAN OF STEEL MINISERIES.


"...NOBODY MAKES A MONKEY OUT OF ME!"
LET'S HEAR IT FOR BEPPO THE SUPER-CHIMP!
OOO-OOO-OOO!
YAAAY!
HO-HO! SOME FUN, HUH, KIDS?
YOU BET! THIS IS THE MOST AWESOME BIRTHDAY PARTY EVER!
THIS IS THE WORST, OLSEN...
...FROM WORKING AT THE DAILY PLANET TO PLAYING KIDDIE PHOTOGRAPHER FOR "CRACKERS THE CLOWN AND THE AMAZING MR. BEPPO!"
WELL, AT LEAST I GOT SOME GOOD SHOTS... THEIR FOLKS SHOULD PAY PLENTY FOR COPIES.
AND, MAN, DO I EVER NEED THE MONEY! RENT'S DUE SOON, AND I'M DOWN TO MY LAST ROLL OF FILM.
HUH?
BEPPO?! NO!!
OOK-OOK!
GOOD BEPPO... NICE BEPPO... GIVE JIMMY THE--!
NO, BEPPO-- DON'T--!
EEE-EE-EE!
AW, WHAT'S THE USE?
VOOTIE!
"FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET..."

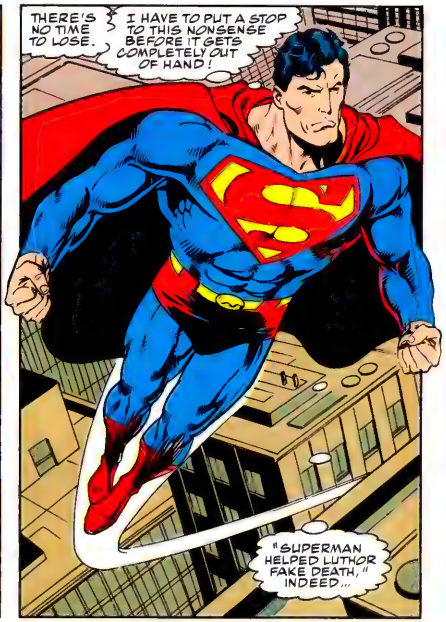

"... MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE? IS THAT THE FATE OF LEX LUTHOR?
"WAS THE BILLIONAIRE TYCOON SPARED A GORY DEATH, ONLY TO BE REVIVED ON A DISTANT PLANET... BECOMING A SUPER-MAN TO ALIEN BENEFACTORS?
"WAS HE RESCUED FROM HIS DOOMED AIRCRAFT BY THE CITIZENS OF AN ADVANCED INCAN CITY, HIDDEN DEEP IN THE ANDES--
"--ONLY TO BECOME THEIR SLAVE?
"OR DID LEX LUTHOR EMPLOY A DOUBLE TO FAKE HIS DEATH?
"IS HE, EVEN NOW, LIVING UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, LEADING A SIMPLE LIFE IN SUBURBIA?
"WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO LEX LUTHOR?"
THAT'S THE QUESTION TODAY ON... RENALDO!
AND, I MUST ADMIT, IT'S THE LAST CASE -- OF LUTHOR IN SUBURBIA -- THAT INTRIGUES ME THE MOST. THAT'S THE THEORY OF MR. AARON PRESTON OF MUNCIE, INDIANA.
MR. PRESTON, I BELIEVE YOU'RE A BELLY BURGER NIGHT MANAGER--?
THAT'S RIGHT, RENALDO! BUT IT'S NO THEORY... I SAW MISTAH LUTHOR WITH MUH OWN EYES...

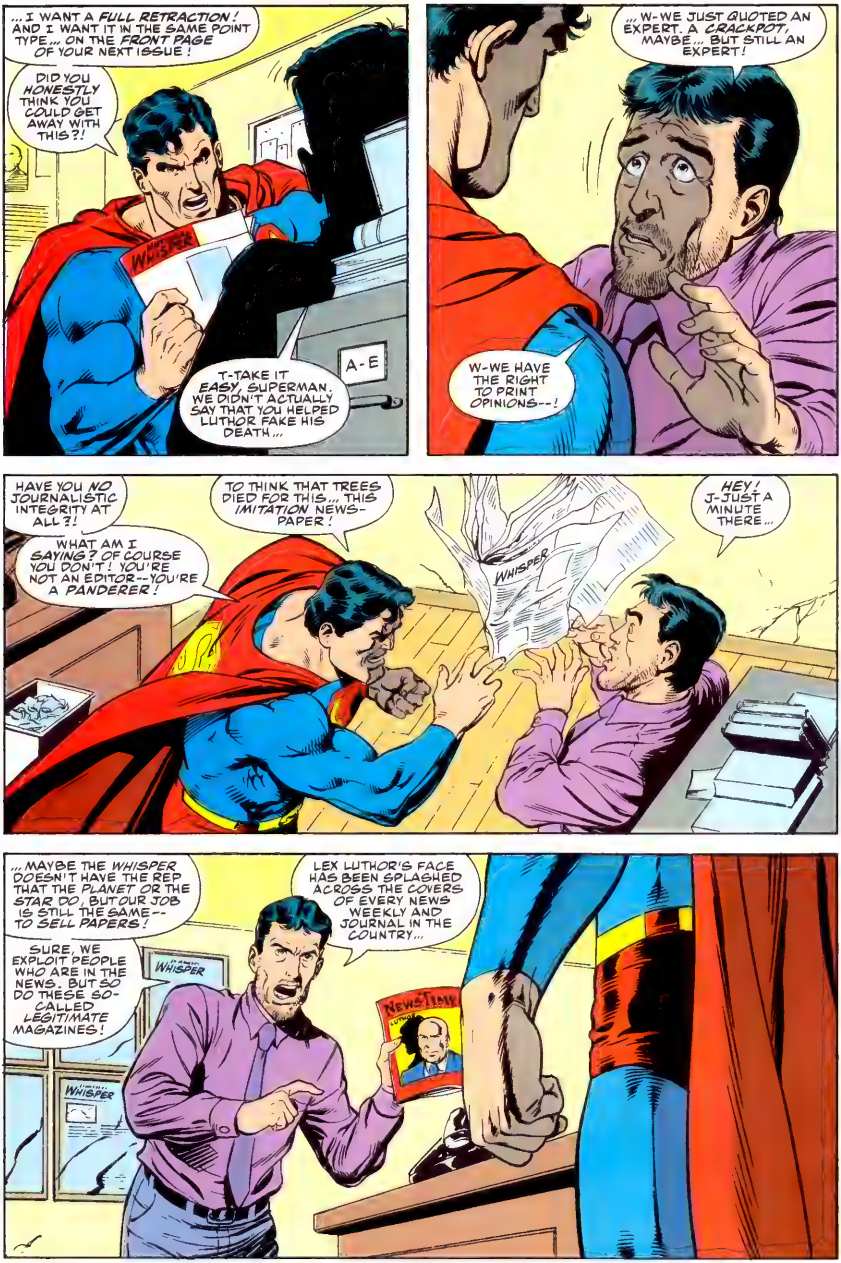
...NOW BOARDING AT GATE 23!
HIYA, MR. KENT! I SEE YER BACK WORKIN' FULL-TIME AT THE PLANET!
I'M AFRAID SO, MAXIE.
'EY, YOU SHOULDN'T TALK LIKE THAT... 'SPECIALLY WITH ALL THE LAY-OFFS THAT'RE GOIN' DOWN.
GOOD POINT. A CLOSE FRIEND OF MINE LOST HIS JOB JUST THE OTHER WEEK. I WONDER HOW HE'S--?
...YES, SIR, I TRULY DID. I'D SEEN PICTURES OF 'IM BEFORE... IT WAS LEX LUTHOR, A'RIGHT! SAW 'IM STANDIN' RIGHT THERE AT MUH COUNTER.
I'D A' RECOGNIZED HIM ANYWHAR... EVEN WITH THEM DARK GLASSES.
'FACT, IT WAS THE GLASSES THAT FIRST CAUGHT MUH EYE. AS YUH KNOW, I WORK NIGHTS--!
AND YOU PERSONALLY SAW LEX LUTHOR?
SAW 'IM? HECK, AH SERVED 'IM! HE ORDERED A DOUBLE-CHEESE BELLY-BUSTER, ONION RINGS, AND A JUMBO DIET SODER!
I HEARD HE'D BEEN SICK, BUT HE SURE DIDN'T EAT LIKE A SICK MAN! HE CHOWED DOWN PURTY HEARTY...
CAR
SKIN
ROCK
She
People
TENNIS
TRAVELER CHECKS
Mega-Vision
FORMATION

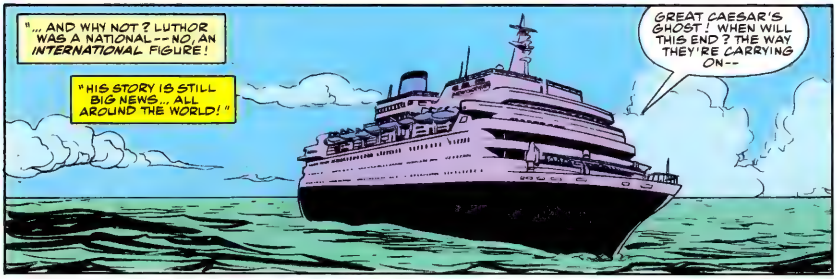
...THEN DROVE OFF IN AN OL' STATION WAGON... BIG OL' BALD HEAD A'GLEAMIN' IN THE MOONLIGHT.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
WHAT'S NOT TO BELIEVE?
She!

LUTHOR WAS A POWERFUL MAN. HE COULDA DONE ANYTHING... 'SPECIALLY WITH THE RIGHT KINDA HELP, EH?
WHAT?!
EXCUSE ME, MAXIE... I HAVE TO RUN.
HOT CARS
WHISPER
SUPERMAN HELPED LUTHOR FAKE DEATH, SAYS EXPERT
SPOTTED IN QURAC
MAN RIDES ON UFO

NO SECLUDED SPOTS NEARBY--
--BUT IF I MOVE QUICKLY ENOUGH--
--I CAN "DISAPPEAR" INTO THE CROWD--
--AND CHANGE--
--FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN SEE!


THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE.
I HAVE TO PUT A STOP TO THIS NONSENSE BEFORE IT GETS COMPLETELY OUT OF HAND!
"SUPERMAN HELPED LUTHOR FAKE DEATH," INDEED...

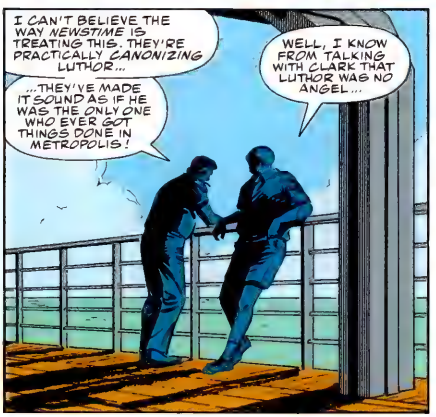

...I WANT A FULL RETRACTION! AND I WANT IT IN THE SAME POINT TYPE... ON THE FRONT PAGE OF YOUR NEXT ISSUE!
DID YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU COULD GET AWAY WITH THIS?!
WHISPER
T-TAKE IT EASY, SUPERMAN. WE DIDN'T ACTUALLY SAY THAT YOU HELPED LUTHOR FAKE HIS DEATH...
A-E
...W-WE JUST QUOTED AN EXPERT. A CRACKPOT, MAYBE... BUT STILL AN EXPERT!
W-WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRINT OPINIONS--!
HAVE YOU NO JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY AT ALL?!
WHAT AM I SAYING? OF COURSE YOU DON'T! YOU'RE NOT AN EDITOR--YOU'RE A PANDERER!
TO THINK THAT TREES DIED FOR THIS... THIS IMITATION NEWS-PAPER!
WHISPER
HEY! J-JUST A MINUTE THERE...
...MAYBE THE WHISPER DOESN'T HAVE THE REP THAT THE PLANET OR THE STAR DO, BUT OUR JOB IS STILL THE SAME-- TO SELL PAPERS!
SURE, WE EXPLOIT PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THE NEWS. BUT SO DO THESE SO-CALLED LEGITIMATE MAGAZINES!
WHISPER
WHISPER
LEX LUTHOR'S FACE HAS BEEN SPLASHED ACROSS THE COVERS OF EVERY NEWS WEEKLY AND JOURNAL IN THE COUNTRY...
NEWS-TIME

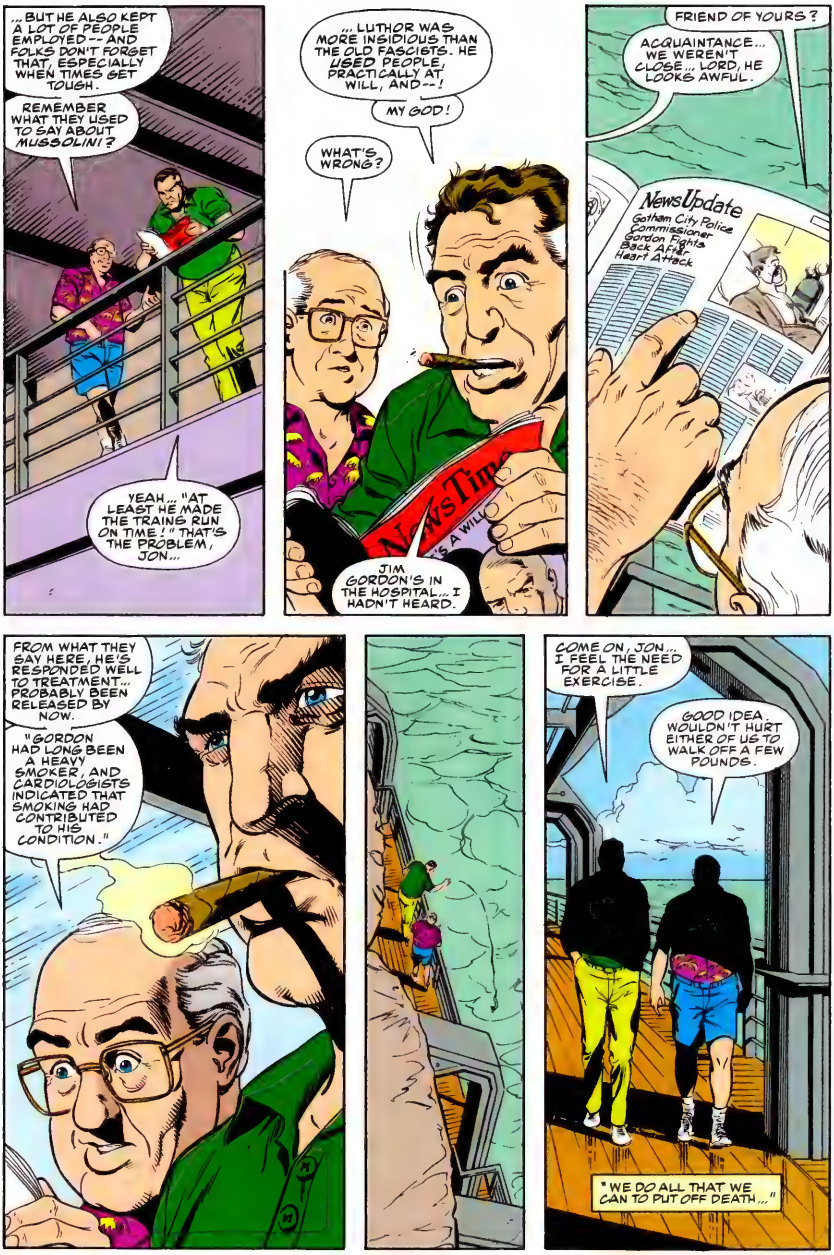

"... AND WHY NOT? LUTHOR WAS A NATIONAL--NO, AN INTERNATIONAL FIGURE!
"HIS STORY IS STILL BIG NEWS... ALL AROUND THE WORLD!"
GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! WHEN WILL THIS END? THE WAY THEY'RE CARRYING ON--

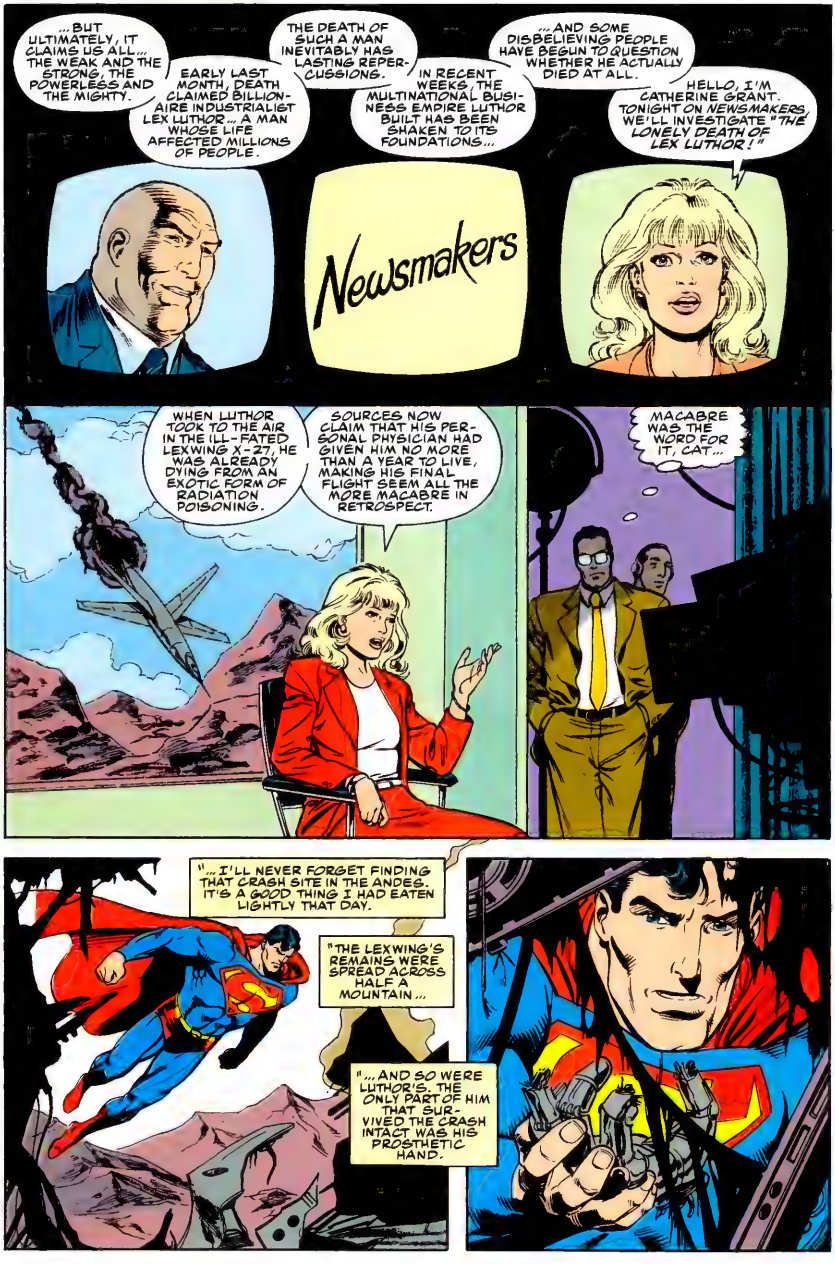
--YOU'D THINK THE MAN HAD BEEN PRESIDENT!
BETTER BE CAREFUL, WHITE...
NewsTime
THERE'S A WILL...
WHERE'S THE HEIR?

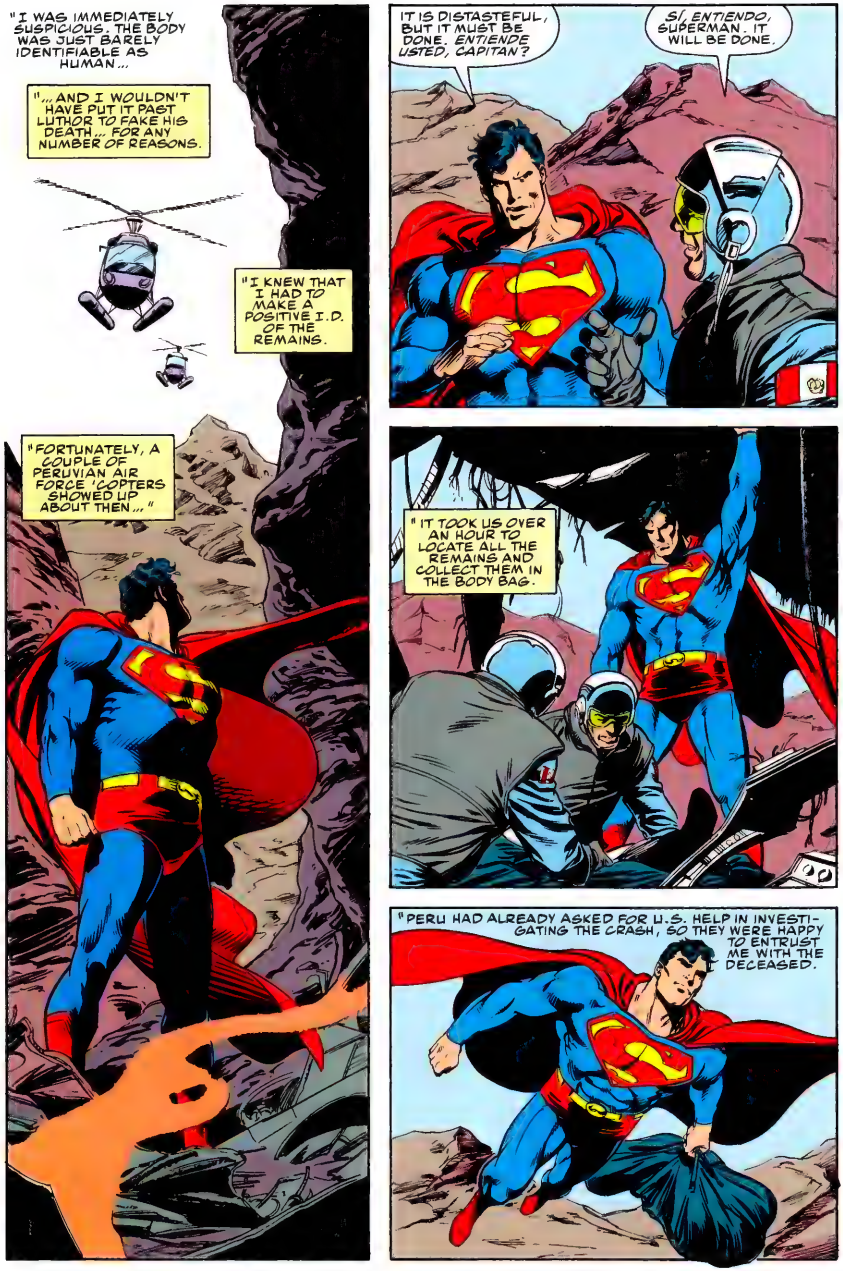
...YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT FOLKS WHO MUTTER TO THEMSELVES!
EH? OH, AFTERNOON, KENT. WAS I MUTTERING?
'FRAID SO, PERRY. C'MON NOW, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PLEASURE CRUISE!
WHY THE LONG FACE? 'S THERE UPSETTING NEWS IN THAT MAGAZINE?
NewsTime

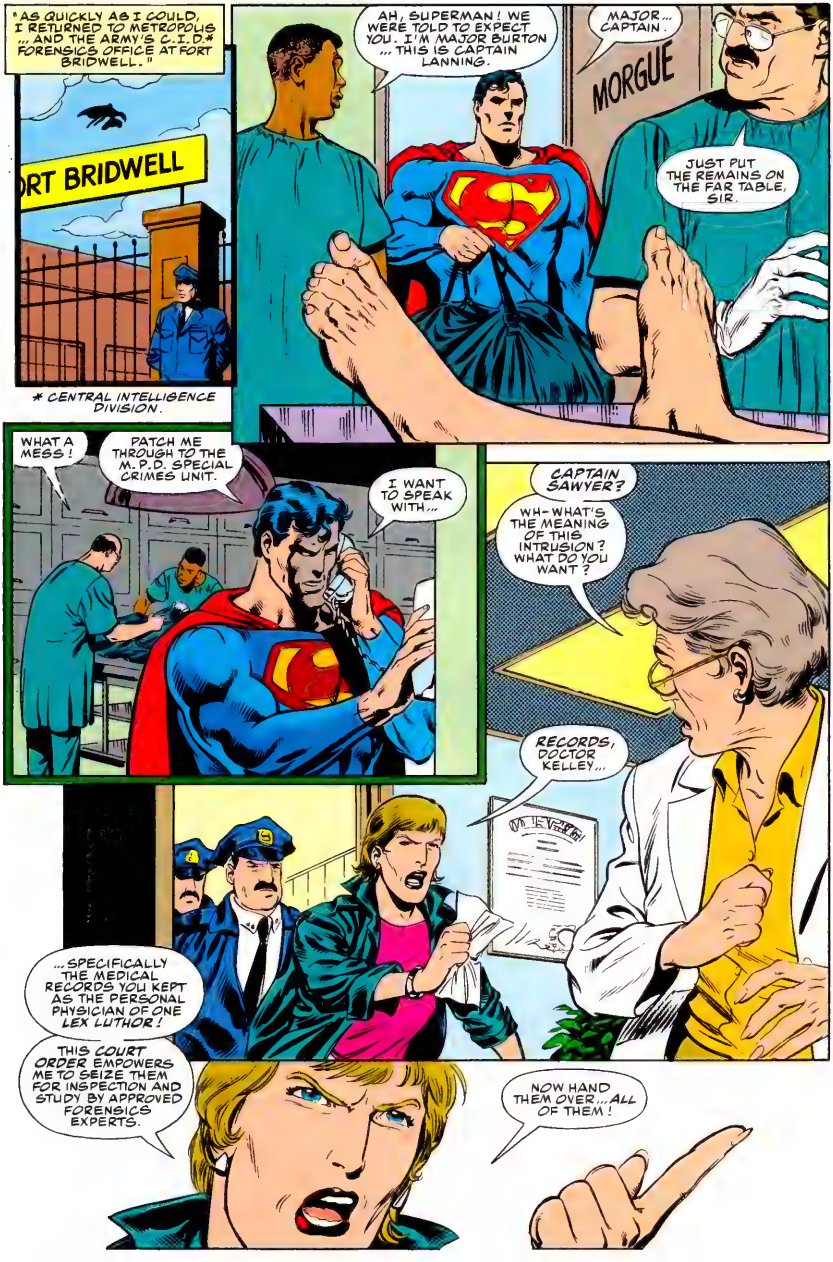
JONATHAN, THE STAFF OF THIS RAG--
--WOULDN'T KNOW REAL NEWS IF IT BIT 'EM ON THEIR BEHINDS! YOUR SON MADE THE RIGHT MOVE IN DISASSOCIATING HIMSELF FROM IT.*
* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #465.

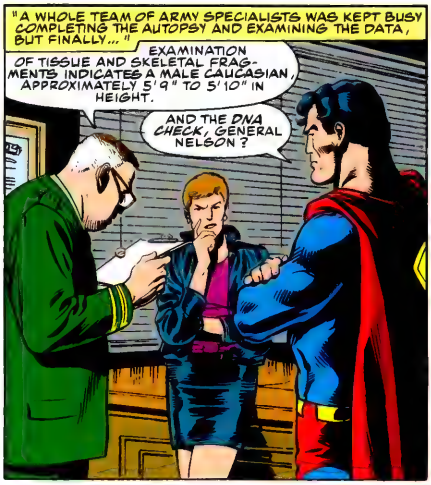

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE WAY NEWSTIME IS TREATING THIS. THEY'RE PRACTICALLY CANONIZING LUTHOR...
...THEY'VE MADE IT SOUND AS IF HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER GOT THINGS DONE IN METROPOLIS!
WELL, I KNOW FROM TALKING WITH CLARK THAT LUTHOR WAS NO ANGEL...


...BUT HE ALSO KEPT A LOT OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED -- AND FOLKS DON'T FORGET THAT, ESPECIALLY WHEN TIMES SET TOUGH.
REMEMBER WHAT THEY USED TO SAY ABOUT MUSSOLINI?
YEAH... "AT LEAST HE MADE THE TRAINS RUN ON TIME!" THAT'S THE PROBLEM, JON...
...LUTHOR WAS MORE INSIDIOUS THAN THE OLD FASCISTS. HE USED PEOPLE, PRACTICALLY AT WILL, AND--!
MY GOD!
WHAT'S WRONG?
JIM GORDON'S IN THE HOSPITAL... I HADN'T HEARD.
FRIEND OF YOURS?
ACQUAINTANCE... WE WEREN'T CLOSE... LORD, HE LOOKS AWFUL.
News Update
Gotham City Police Commissioner Gordon Fights Back After Heart Attack
FROM WHAT THEY SAY HERE, HE'S RESPONDED WELL TO TREATMENT... PROBABLY BEEN RELEASED BY NOW.
"GORDON HAD LONG BEEN A HEAVY SMOKER, AND CARDIOLOGISTS INDICATED THAT SMOKING HAD CONTRIBUTED TO HIS CONDITION."
COME ON, JON... I FEEL THE NEED FOR A LITTLE EXERCISE.
GOOD IDEA. WOULDN'T HURT EITHER OF US TO WALK OFF A FEW POUNDS.
"WE DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO PUT OFF DEATH..."

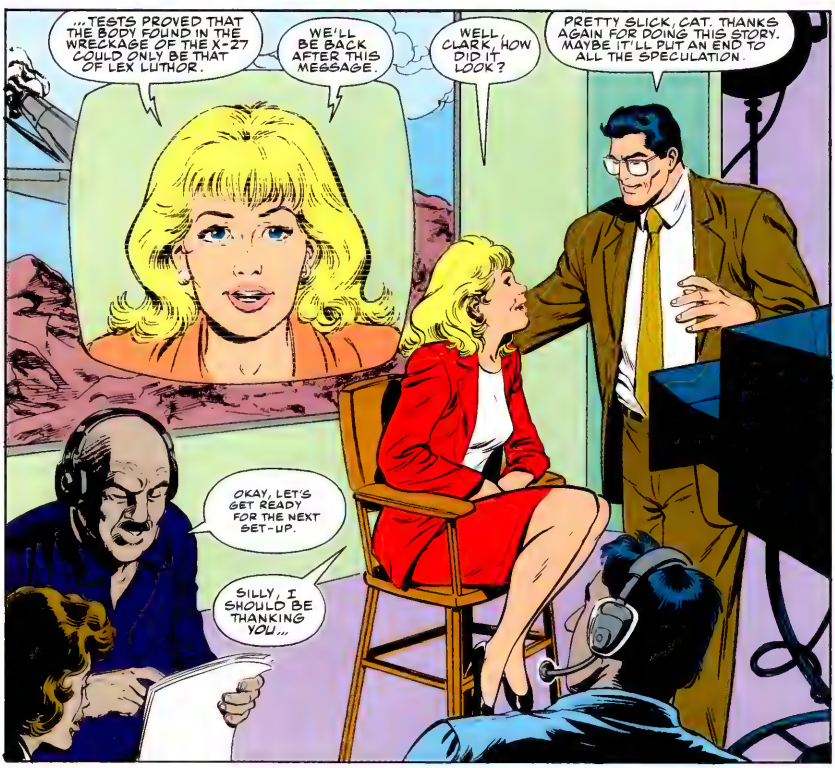

...BUT ULTIMATELY, IT CLAIMS US ALL... THE WEAK AND THE STRONG, THE POWERLESS AND THE MIGHTY.
EARLY LAST MONTH, DEATH CLAIMED BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST LEX LUTHOR... A MAN WHOSE LIFE AFFECTED MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.
THE DEATH OF SUCH A MAN INEVITABLY HAS LASTING REPERCUSSIONS.
IN RECENT WEEKS, THE MULTINATIONAL BUSINESS EMPIRE LUTHOR BUILT HAS BEEN SHAKEN TO ITS FOUNDATIONS...
...AND SOME DISBELIEVING PEOPLE HAVE BEGUN TO QUESTION WHETHER HE ACTUALLY DIED AT ALL.
Newsmakers
HELLO, I'M CATHERINE GRANT. TONIGHT ON NEWSMAKERS, WE'LL INVESTIGATE "THE LONELY DEATH OF LEX LUTHOR!"
WHEN LUTHOR TOOK TO THE AIR IN THE ILL-FATED LEXWING X-27, HE WAS ALREADY DYING FROM AN EXOTIC FORM OF RADIATION POISONING.
SOURCES NOW CLAIM THAT HIS PERSONAL PHYSICIAN HAD GIVEN HIM NO MORE THAN A YEAR TO LIVE, MAKING HIS FINAL FLIGHT SEEM ALL THE MORE MACABRE IN RETROSPECT.
MACABRE WAS THE WORD FOR IT, CAT...
"...I'LL NEVER FORGET FINDING THAT CRASH SITE IN THE ANDES. IT'S A GOOD THING I HAD EATEN LIGHTLY THAT DAY.
"THE LEXWING'S REMAINS WERE SPREAD ACROSS HALF A MOUNTAIN...
"...AND SO WERE LUTHOR'S. THE ONLY PART OF HIM THAT SURVIVED THE CRASH INTACT WAS HIS PROSTHETIC HAND.

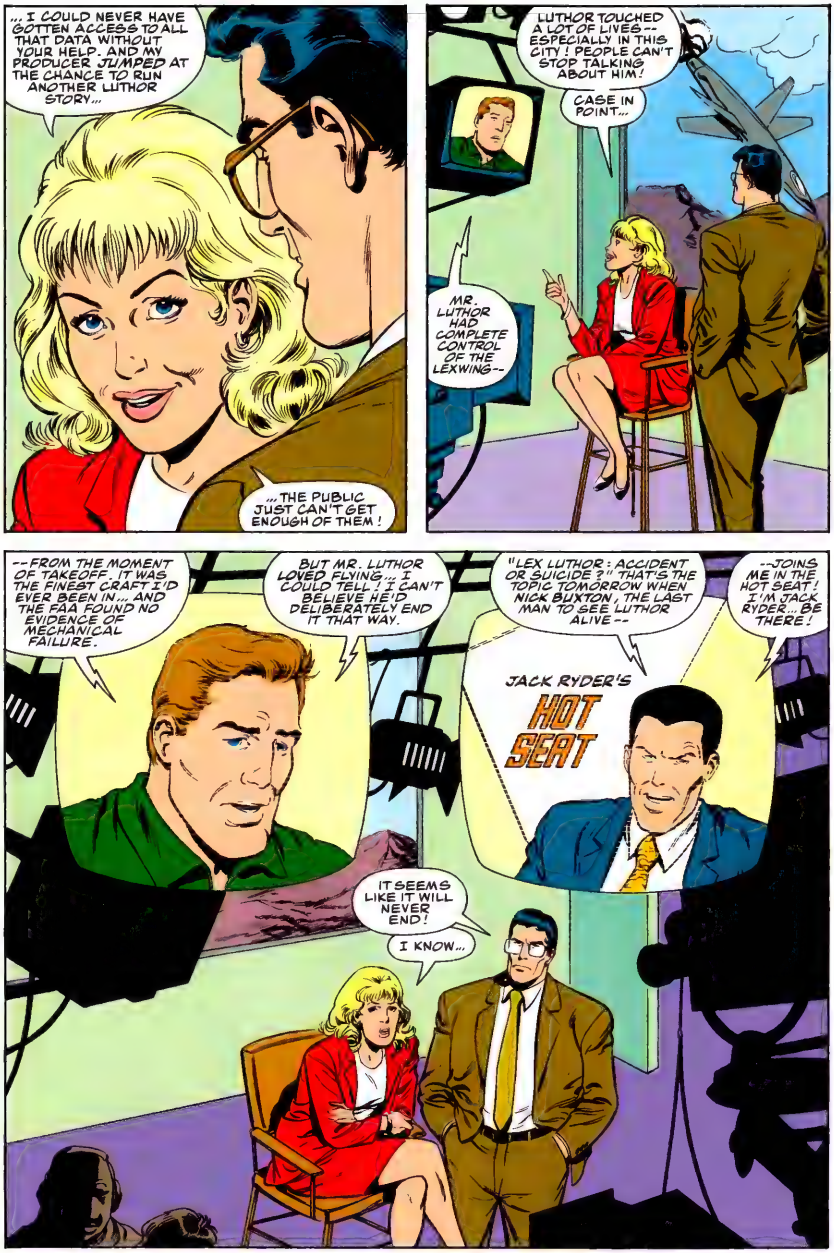

"I WAS IMMEDIATELY SUSPICIOUS. THE BODY WAS JUST BARELY IDENTIFIABLE AS HUMAN...
"...AND I WOULDN'T HAVE PUT IT PAST LUTHOR TO FAKE HIS DEATH... FOR ANY NUMBER OF REASONS.
"I KNEW THAT I HAD TO MAKE A POSITIVE I.D. OF THE REMAINS.
"FORTUNATELY, A COUPLE OF PERUVIAN AIR FORCE 'COPTERS SHOWED UP ABOUT THEN..."
IT IS DISTASTEFUL, BUT IT MUST BE DONE. ENTIENDE USTED, CAPITAN?
SÍ, ENTIENDO, SUPERMAN. IT WILL BE DONE.
"IT TOOK US OVER AN HOUR TO LOCATE ALL THE REMAINS AND COLLECT THEM IN THE BODY BAG.
"PERU HAD ALREADY ASKED FOR U.S. HELP IN INVESTIGATING THE CRASH, SO THEY WERE HAPPY TO ENTRUST ME WITH THE DECEASED.

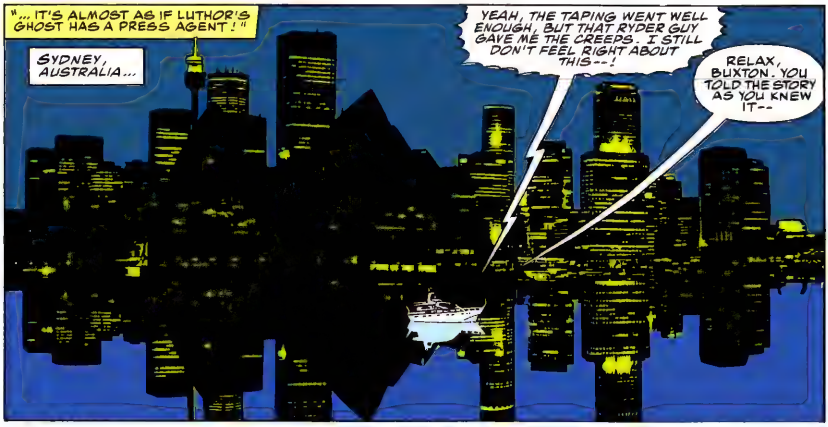

"AS QUICKLY AS I COULD, I RETURNED TO METROPOLIS ... AND THE ARMY'S C.I.D.* FORENSICS OFFICE AT FORT BRIDWELL."
ORT BRIDWELL
* CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.
AH, SUPERMAN! WE WERE TOLD TO EXPECT YOU. I'M MAJOR BURTON ... THIS IS CAPTAIN LANNING.
MAJOR... CAPTAIN.
MORGUE
JUST PUT THE REMAINS ON THE FAR TABLE, SIR.
WHAT A MESS!
PATCH ME THROUGH TO THE M.P.D. SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT.
I WANT TO SPEAK WITH...
CAPTAIN SAWYER?
WH-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS INTRUSION? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
RECORDS, DOCTOR KELLEY...
...SPECIFICALLY THE MEDICAL RECORDS YOU KEPT AS THE PERSONAL PHYSICIAN OF ONE LEX LUTHOR!
THIS COURT ORDER EMPOWERS ME TO SEIZE THEM FOR INSPECTION AND STUDY BY APPROVED FORENSICS EXPERTS.
NOW HAND THEM OVER... ALL OF THEM!


"A WHOLE TEAM OF ARMY SPECIALISTS WAS KEPT BUSY COMPLETING THE AUTOPSY AND EXAMINING THE DATA, BUT FINALLY..."
EXAMINATION OF TISSUE AND SKELETAL FRAGMENTS INDICATES A MALE CAUCASIAN, APPROXIMATELY 5'9" TO 5'10" IN HEIGHT.
AND THE DNA CHECK, GENERAL NELSON?

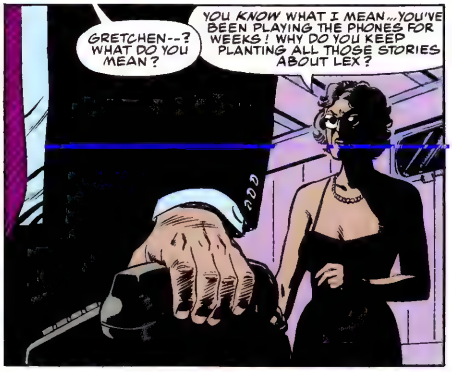
A PERFECT MATCH WITH THE RECORDS PROCURED BY CAPTAIN SAWYER, SUPERMAN. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...


...TESTS PROVED THAT THE BODY FOUND IN THE WRECKAGE OF THE X-27 COULD ONLY BE THAT OF LEX LUTHOR.
WE'LL BE BACK AFTER THIS MESSAGE.
WELL, CLARK, HOW DID IT LOOK?
PRETTY SLICK, CAT. THANKS AGAIN FOR DOING THIS STORY. MAYBE IT'LL PUT AN END TO ALL THE SPECULATION.
OKAY, LET'S GET READY FOR THE NEXT SET-UP.
SILLY, I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU...


...I COULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN ACCESS TO ALL THAT DATA WITHOUT YOUR HELP. AND MY PRODUCER JUMPED AT THE CHANCE TO RUN ANOTHER LUTHOR STORY...
...THE PUBLIC JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THEM!
LUTHOR TOUCHED A LOT OF LIVES -- ESPECIALLY IN THIS CITY! PEOPLE CAN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT HIM!
CASE IN POINT...
MR. LUTHOR HAD COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE LEXWING--
--FROM THE MOMENT OF TAKEOFF, IT WAS THE FINEST CRAFT I'D EVER BEEN IN... AND THE FAA FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF MECHANICAL FAILURE.
BUT MR. LUTHOR LOVED FLYING... I COULD TELL; I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D DELIBERATELY END IT THAT WAY.
"LEX LUTHOR: ACCIDENT OR SUICIDE?" THAT'S THE TOPIC TOMORROW WHEN NICK BUXTON, THE LAST MAN TO SEE LUTHOR ALIVE--
--JOINS ME IN THE HOT SEAT! I'M JACK RYDER... BE THERE!
JACK RYDER'S
HOT SEAT
IT SEEMS LIKE IT WILL NEVER END!
I KNOW...

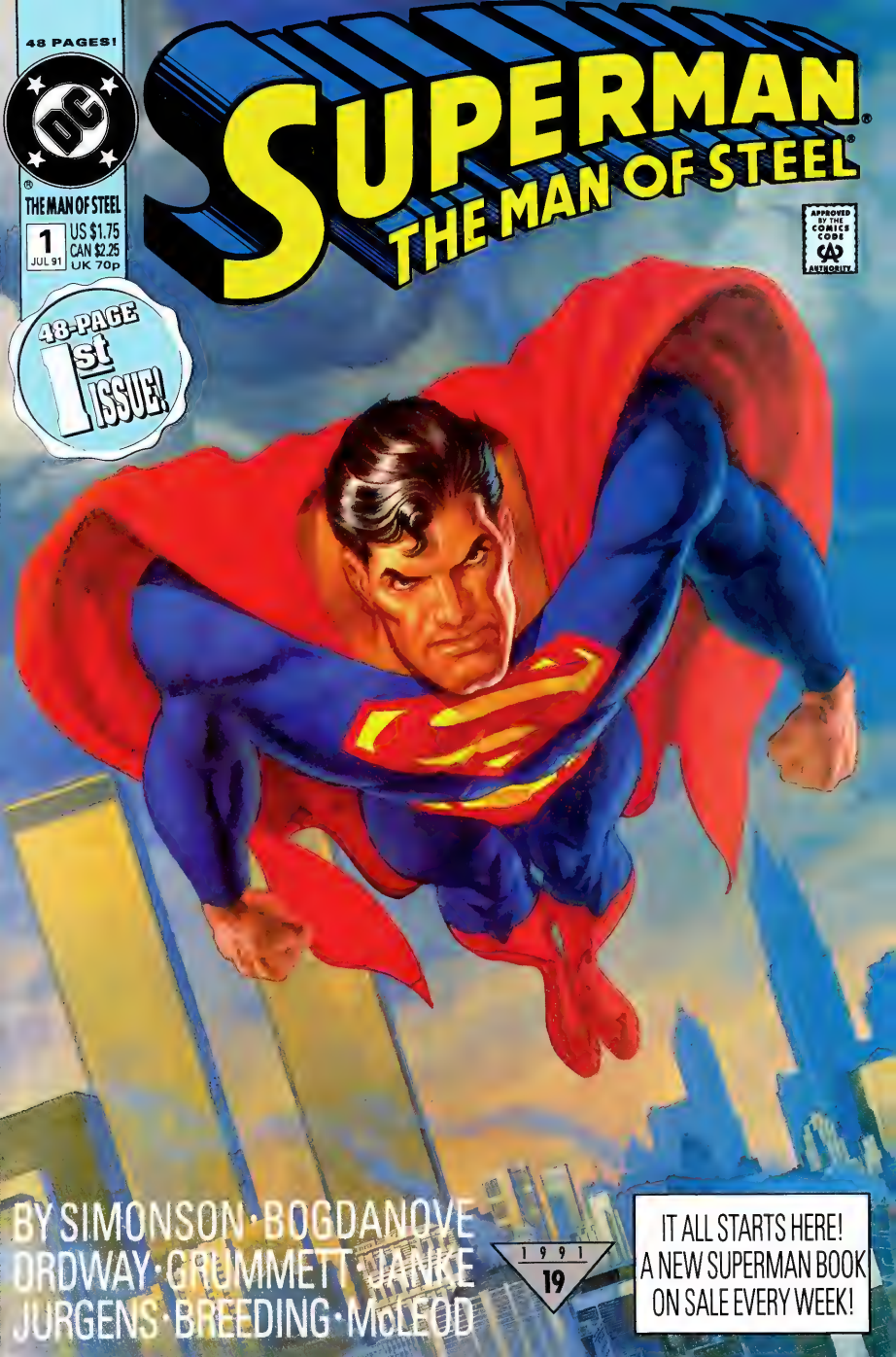

"... IT'S ALMOST AS IF LUTHOR'S GHOST HAS A PRESS AGENT!"
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA...
YEAH, THE TAPING WENT WELL ENOUGH, BUT THAT RYDER GUY GAVE ME THE CREEPS. I STILL DON'T FEEL RIGHT ABOUT THIS--!
RELAX, BUXTON. YOU TOLD THE STORY AS YOU KNEW IT--

--THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING.
I HAVE TO GO... I'LL BE IN TOUCH.
BUSY LITTLE BEAVER, AREN'T YOU?


GRETCHEN--? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN... YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING THE PHONES FOR WEEKS! WHY DO YOU KEEP PLANTING ALL THOSE STORIES ABOUT LEX?

BECAUSE THAT'S THE WAY THE BOSS WANTED IT.
HE SAID, "HAPPERSEN, DON'T EVER LET THE PEOPLE FORGET LEX LUTHOR!"

HEY, DON'T BE SO GLUM, KELLEY.
COME ON, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR US TO GREET THE YOUNG HEIR TO THE LUTHOR NAME. DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR SON?
I... ALL RIGHT, SYDNEY ...ALL RIGHT.
NEXT ISSUE: THE RETURN OF THE THORN!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